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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you use a seat belt when driving?

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PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 6

As of September 15, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

US Missile

A missile slammed into a car in a Pakistani tribal region, killing four people.

ASIA...Page 15

Swayze, 57

Patrick Swayze, the hunky actor in "Ghost," has died after a battle with pancreatic cancer.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

Tinian Covenant chairman quits post, rejoins GOP. **PAGE 3**
Ex-CUC chief Guerrero approved for travel to Japan. **PAGE 6**

Choi-Wan intensifies to super typhoon

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Department of Public Works employees, from left, Ken Dela Cruz, Pete Litulumar and Albert Remoket clear up a roadside in Lower Base of fallen banana trees yesterday afternoon, hours after Typhoon Choi-Wan made its closest approach to Saipan before heading for Alamagan.

- Typhoon's center passes over Alamagan
- Up to 272 people take refuge at shelters
- FEMA staff to assess damage

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Packing maximum sustained winds of 150 miles per hour, Choi-Wan was upgraded to super typhoon status as of 8pm last night, speeding up even as it moved farther away from Saipan and Tinian.

RELATED NEWS

Only Cape Air flight was delayed. **PAGE 2**
PSS reports no damage, ready to resume classes. **PAGE 5**

The center of Super Typhoon Choi-Wan passed directly over Alamagan yesterday at 4pm with maximum sustained winds of 145 mph, intensifying to 150 mph as it crept west-northwest at 12 mph.

See CHOI-WAN on Page 4

AT THE HEIGHT OF TYPHOON CHOI-WAN

2 men tie cashier, rob poker arcade

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

As strong winds and heavy rains pounded Saipan early yesterday morning, two unidentified men beat up a female cashier and tied her up during a robbery at a poker establishment in Kagman III.

The victim, a 33-year-old Chinese, was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center's emergency room where she was treated for minor injuries. She complained of pain in the abdomen.

The suspects escaped with over $10,000 cash from Rio II Poker, according to Department of Public Safety spokesman Jason Tarkong.

Tarkong said the first suspect was described as about 5'5" tall, heavyset, and wearing a long-sleeved shirt, dark clothing, and a hat.

The second robber was described as about 5'6" tall, skin-

See 2 MEN on Page 4

Red Cross says no damaged homes; community cleans up debris

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Besides causing trees and branches to fall and some debris to litter roads, Typhoon Choi-Wan didn't do much damage to Saipan, according to the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter.

But John Hirsh, executive director of the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter, expressed concern about the safety of the estimated 15 individuals on Alamagan, especially because a woman gave birth just a few days ago.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Rep. Raymond Palacios (Cov-Saipan) cleans up a road near the Chalan Kanoa cemetery of fallen small trees and branches caused by Typhoon Choi-Wan's wind yesterday.

Choi-Wan passed within 5 miles of Alamagan, packing maximum sustained winds of 145 miles per hour around 4pm yesterday, according to the National Weather Service in Guam.

Alamagan residents, how-

See RED CROSS on Page 4

Additional visa requirement for alien investors concerns SCC

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce expressed disappointment over the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' proposed investor program for the CNMI, mainly due to an additional visa requirement to re-enter the Commonwealth and for not "grandfathering" existing long-term foreign investors beyond the five-year transition period ending in 2014.

An E-2 CNMI investor

See ADDITIONAL on Page 4

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Local

Only Cape Air flight was delayed

Besides the short flights from Tinian, only one charter flight was affected by the typhoon that hit Saipan yesterday.

Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Efrain F. Camacho said Cape Air, which transports passengers to and from Guam, was the only one affected, with one flight delayed for some hours.

Since Monday, there have been no cancellations in the scheduled departure and arrival of Northwest and Asiana flights.

Although a flight from China was delayed for 24 hours, Camacho said the decision was made by the airline and had nothing to do with the typhoon on island.

"They delayed the flight themselves…and it's not because of the typhoon but other factors," Camacho said.

Flights scheduled for departure yesterday morning were not affected nor delayed, he added.

Unlike other government agencies that were ordered closed Monday, CPA allowed its personnel to report for work.

"Business is usual and normal at the airport [in the last two days]. Our operation was not interrupted in anyway by this typhoon because we immediately set up preparations since Monday morning," Camacho said.

He said two main power backup generators are on standby at the airport since Sunday to prevent any interruption in the agency's operation.

"Majority of all our personnel reported for work…ready to assist and perform their duty, especially during this situation," Camacho said.

In the case of a "super typhoon," the CPA official said the terminal will be automatically shut down to avert any untoward incidents at the airport. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

House panel cancels hearing on health

The House Committee on Health, Education and Welfare cancelled the two public hearings on Department of Public Health issues originally set for today.

Committee chair Rep. Ralph DLG Torres (R-Saipan) yesterday said the public hearings "may" be held Wednesday next week.

"As of now, they're cancelled until further notice. But we may hold it Wednesday next week, same time," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

The hearings may be held next Wednesday at 10am in the House chamber, and another one at 6:30pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

The panel is expected to receive testimony on a number of health issues involving doctors, nurses and other medical personnel, medical referral, and the new dialysis center which ballooned to a $22-million project from the original estimate of $5 million and is set to open in October.

The committee encourages the public to submit written testimony on or before the public hearings. Oral testimony will also be received during the public hearing.

Written testimony may be dropped at Torres' office on Capital Hill or e-mailed at rep.rtorres@gmail.com, or faxed at 664 8926. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

NOTIFICATION OF WIA DISLOCATED WORKER FUNDING PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

CATEGORY A: GENERAL DISLOCATED WORKERS. To qualify, an individual must meet the following three criteria:

1. Has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff, from employment;
2. Is eligible for or has exhausted entitlement to unemployment compensation; OR has been employed or attached to the workforce for a duration sufficient to demonstrate to WIA, but is not eligible for unemployment compensation due to insufficient earnings or having performed services for an employer that were not covered under a state unemployment compensation law; and
3. Is unlikely to return to a previous industry or occupation.

CATEGORY B: PLANT CLOSURE. To qualify, an individual must meet one of the following three criteria:

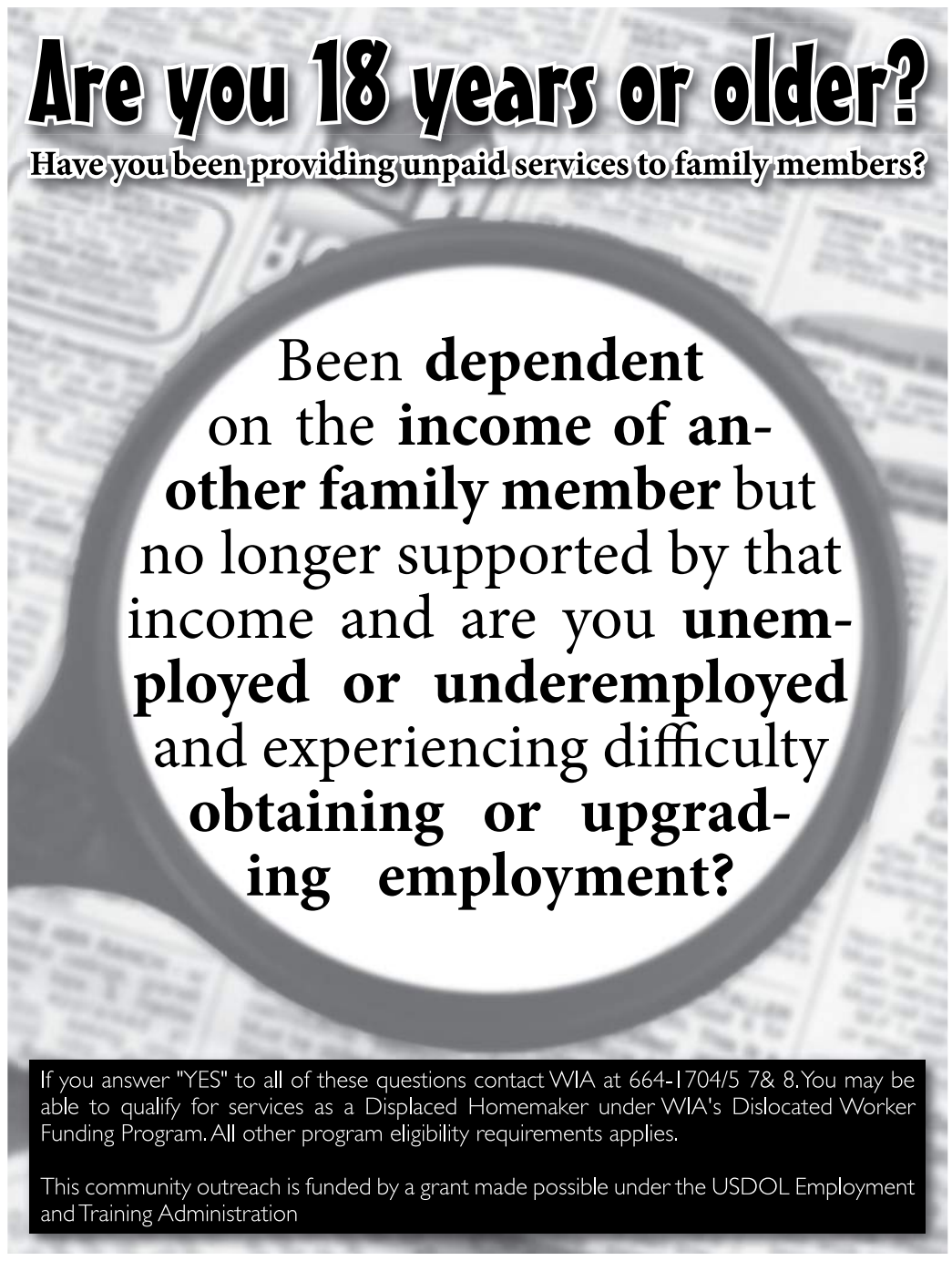
1. Has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff, from employment as a result of any permanent closure of, or any substantial layoff at, a plant, facility, or enterprise;
2. Is employed at a facility at which the employer has made a general announcement that such facility will close within 180 days; or
3. For purposes of eligibility to receive services other than training, intensive or supportive services under WIA, is employed at a facility at which the employer has made a general announcement that such facility will close.

CATEGORY C: SELF-EMPLOYED or UNEMPLOYED. To qualify, an individual must meet the following criteria:

1. Was self-employed (including employment as a farmer, a rancher, or a fisherman) but is unemployed as a result of general economic conditions in the community in which the individual resides or because of natural disasters.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT WIA AT 664-1704;1707; 1708 OR 1757 or email us at gov.wia@pticom.com. All other program eligibility applies.

This community outreach is funded by a grant made possible under the USDOL Employment and Training Administration.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This community outreach is funded by a grant made possible under the USDOL Employment and Training Administration

Tinian Covenant chairman quits post, rejoins GOP

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The chairman of the Covenant Party on Tinian has quit his position due to the alleged "unfair" treatment he got from the group's mayoralty candidate. He immediately switched to the island's Republican Party.

Jose P. Cruz submitted his resignation on Monday and confirmed his move to the GOP yesterday. "Yes I did," said Cruz. "I switched back to the Republican Party."

The son of former Tinian Republican Party president Sylvestre Cruz, Joe Cruz also resigned his position in the mayor's office effective Friday, saying he was insulted and embarrassed by incumbent Mayor Jose P. San Nicolas on several occasions.

"It's very sad for someone to encounter and receive unfair treatment, being insulted, embarrassed, and harassed in front of the whole members and supporters," he said.

San Nicolas confirmed Cruz's resignation yesterday but denied he mistreated or embarrassed him, describing the situation as a "misunderstanding" within the committee level.

In his resignation letter dated Sept. 14, a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune*, Cruz reminded San Nicolas that he did not volunteer to become chairman of the Tinian Covenant Party.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Front row from left, former Tinian mayor Francisco M. Borja and his first lady, Bernie San Nicolas; Jose P. Cruz, former Gaming Commission member; Ramon M. Dela Cruz, former senator and candidate for Mayor of Tinian; Edward DLC. Shai, president Tinian Republican Party; Anthony U. Hofschneider, former councilman; and Lynette Iba. Middle row from left, former mayor James M. Mendiola; Norbert U. Hofschneider; Jess P. Cruz, former Tinian Republican Party president; Jose SN Cruz, son of former mayor Jose P. Cruz; Trenton Conner, former councilman; former mayor Ignacio K. Quichocho; Frank Q. Cruz, former chairman, Tinian Municipal Council. Top row from left, Estevan M. Borja; former senator Jose M. Dela Cruz and Antonio SN Borja, 1st vice-president, Tinian Republican Party.

"You have given it to me without any choice and say so on the matter, because you believed that I possess the ability and the expertise for this kind of job," Cruz said.

He cited the success of the party's first kickoff campaign last Aug. 22, saying his involvement as the head of all the planning and preparation resulted in the large turnout.

Yet Cruz said he was deeply hurt with the way San Nicolas treated his hard work, loyalty and commitment to the team.

San Nicolas admitted losing his temper with the former chairman but said he was merely insisting that Cruz produce the party's financial report.

Saipan Tribune learned that the party called for a committee meeting last week, during which Cruz was asked to provide members with a report of the party's expenses.

"That's not embarrassment… but discipline. I [asked] him to provide the committee members the financial report which he never submitted to the committee," San Nicolas said, adding that Cruz only provided the financial report when he turned in his resignation last Monday.

The mayor said that since the party's fundraising on Saipan last month, Cruz was not able to produce the document, despite telling members it would soon

See TINIAN on Page 4

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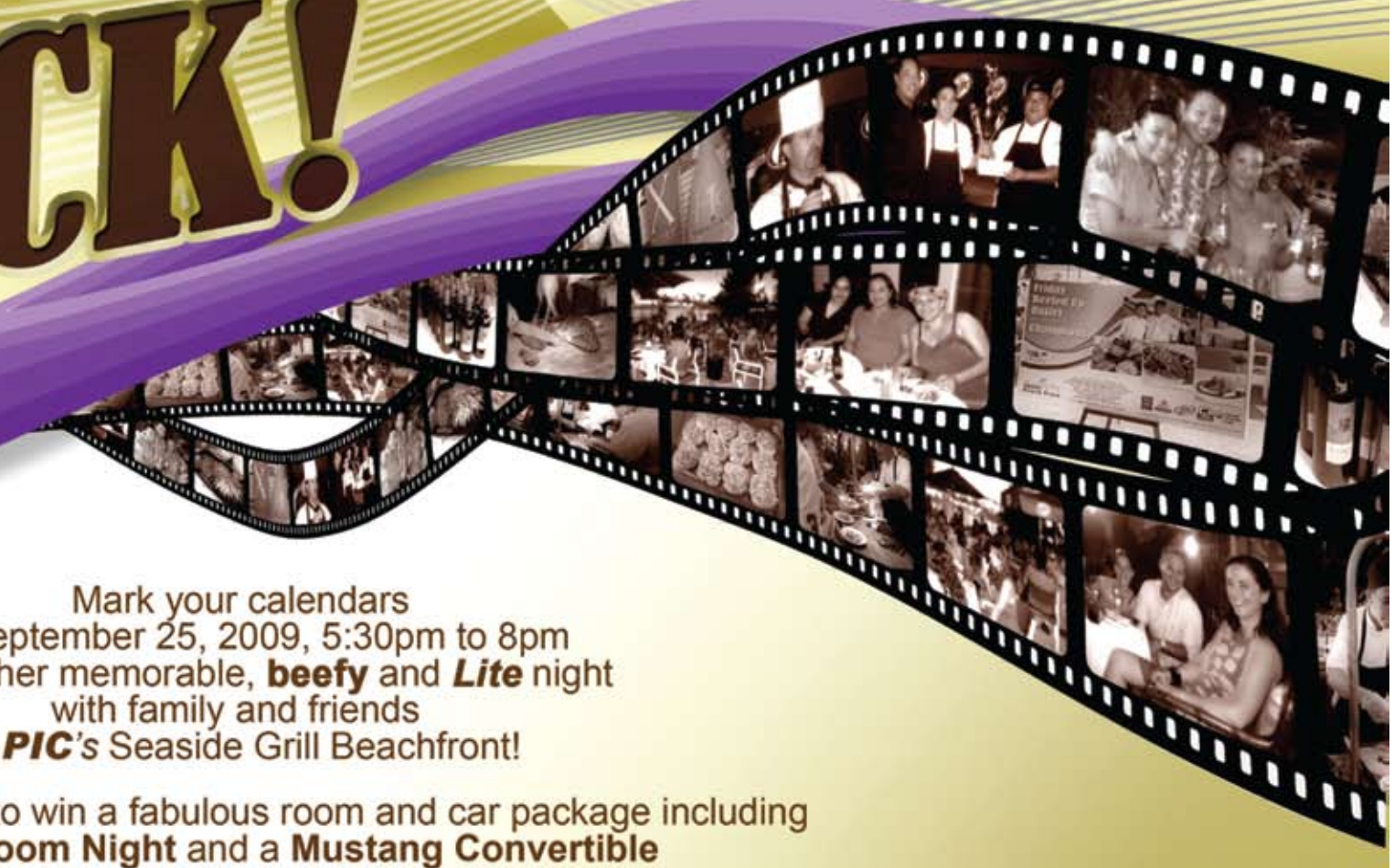

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CHOI-WAN

From Page 1

A typhoon becomes a super typhoon when its maximum sustained winds reach 150 mph or more.

There were no immediate reports of damage to property or injuries on Alamagan. There are reportedly 15 people residing on that island.

A typhoon warning remained in effect for Agrihan last night, while a tropical storm warning remained in effect for Saipan.

On Saipan and Tinian, no one was reported injured and authorities did not get any report of major damage to property as of 6pm yesterday.

Federal Emergency Management Agency staffers are expected to arrive when all is clear to assess the damage to property on Saipan, Tinian, and the Northern Islands. The FEMA team is currently in Guam, according to Emergency Management Office deputy director Mark Pangelinan.

The number of people who took refuge in designated shelters on Saipan rose from 179 on Monday to 272 as of 8am yesterday, according to EMO geophysical seismic technician/supervisor John Takai Camacho.

Most people fled to the shelters around 7am as the typhoon's center was 80 miles southeast of Alamagan or 140 miles north-northeast of Saipan.

According to a National Weather Service advisory issued at 8pm, Choi-Wan was about 70 miles south-southwest of Agrihan and 35 miles west-northwest of Alamagan as of 7pm last night.

This is about 185 miles north of Saipan, 195 miles north of Tinian, 255 miles north of Rota, and 305 miles north of Guam.

A slight turn to the northwest is expected with little change in forward speed over the next 24 hours, NWS said. Typhoon force winds extend outward for up to 60 miles from the center, while tropical storm force winds extend outward for up to 180 miles from the center.

Choi-Wan is expected to intensify further in the next 24 hours, the NWS said.

On Saipan and Tinian, public schools remained closed yesterday, but classes at some private schools resumed. The operations of government offices and local and federal courts also resumed. Most private establishments were business as usual. Typhoon debris consisted mostly of fallen branches and small trees.

With the Public School System resuming classes today, people in designated shelters were moved to the Ada Gym in Susupe. Most evacuees, however, went home yesterday afternoon.

The Kagman Community Center was designated as a long-term shelter, while the Man'amko Center was designated as a backup long-term shelter.

All beaches on Saipan and Tinian were closed due to the high surf and strong rip currents.

2 MEN

From Page 1

ny, and wearing a long-sleeved shirt, dark clothing, and a hat. He was armed with a machete.

Tarkong said police officers responded to a call about a robbery incident at Rio II Poker at 7:33am.

Police investigation showed that the two suspects entered the establishment around 7:25am, as the cashier was repairing one of the poker machines.

The first suspect grabbed the cashier's arm and held it behind her back. The second, machete-wielding suspect asked her for the key to the cashier's booth.

When the cashier refused to give up the key, the first suspect punched her in the stomach. At this juncture, she gave the key to the second robber.

The second suspect opened the cashier's booth, took the money and a computer's hard drive.

The suspects then taped the victim's mouth and wrists and then fled the scene.

After freeing herself, the victim contacted the police.

The NMI Crime Stoppers Program is offering up to $1,000 cash to anyone who could provide information leading to the arrest of any of the suspects.

Yesterday's incident is the third robbery in a two-week period on Saipan.

On Sept. 8, two unidentified men armed with a rock and a hammer robbed the Moon Night Poker in Chalan Kanoa of over $6,000 cash. No one was reported injured in that robbery.

On Sept. 2, two unidentified men robbed the WVC Pawnshop in Garapan of $5,000 worth of assorted jewelry.

Last July 29, a masked man armed with a gun robbed 10-21 Poker in Kagman III. A responding police officer recovered near the crime scene $4,000 in cash believed to be stolen from poker arcade.

No one was arrested so far in all these robbery cases.

RED CROSS

From Page 1

ever, are in close contact with the Emergency Management Office and the Northern Islands' Mayor's Office.

On Saipan, staff of the Department of Public Works and community members immediately got to work clearing up the debris.

Saipan villages with the most number of fallen trees and branches, according to DPW, included Dandan, Gualo Rai, Kannat Tabla, Wireless Hill and Navy Hill.

Albert Remoket, on-site supervisor of DPW's roads and grounds section, said DPW personnel started clearing up typhoon debris, mostly fallen trees and branches, on Monday night.

"We had three shifts for this storm. The first one was on Monday from 1pm to 6pm, and then 6pm to midnight, and from midnight to 6am Monday, and then back to regular shift," Remoket said in an interview as he and two other DPW personnel—Pete Litulumar and Ken dela Cruz—were clearing up a road side in Lower Base of mostly fallen banana trees.

Damage assessment

Hirsh said five teams of American Red Cross volunteers made a damage assessment as early as 8am yesterday to survey the impact of Choi-Wan on Saipan, and the result was that it only caused minor damage.

"We surveyed the island and the damage was only minor. There were fallen trees and tree branches. There were no houses damaged we're aware of. We're fortunate that we didn't get much rain and wind unlike previous typhoons like Chaba," Hirsh told *Saipan Tribune*.

The damage assessment covered almost the entire island, from the northernmost part in Marpi to the southernmost areas in Koblerville.

From Monday morning to Tuesday morning, some 270 children and adults took refuge in typhoon shelters on Saipan.

"The minimal damage was a reflection of people being well prepared. They secured their property well ahead of the storm," he added.

Cleanup

When *Saipan Tribune* passed near the Chalan Kanoa cemetery before noon, Rep. Raymond Palacios (Cov-Saipan) and community worker Chico Ilo were seen clearing up the roads of typhoon debris.

"We started at 8am. We're very fortunate that this storm didn't bring so much rain and wind unlike Chaba, when it rained day and night," Palacios said.

Lake Susupe also did not overflow, and there were no flooded streets near it.

By 11am, most children and adults who sought refuge at emergency shelters had already gone back home.

Joe Etpison, typhoon shelter manager at Koblerville Elementary School, said they sheltered 50 adults and 38 children from 11am Monday to 10:30am Tuesday.

"They're mostly from Koblerville. We had to refer other families to Marianas High School because we could only accommodate two families in one room," said Etpison, who has been a 6th grade teacher for a total of 16 years at Garapan Elementary School and Koblerville Elementary School.

Classrooms used as typhoon shelters were also cleaned up right after the evacuees left, to prepare them for today's resumption of classes.

"We also received shelter kits from Red Cross," he added.

John Somol, shelter manager at Tanapag Elementary School, said they accommodated 23 adults and six children from Monday to Tuesday.

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. personnel were also busy fixing power poles and sewer pumps yesterday.

During lunch hour, CUC personnel were fixing a sewer pump in Susupe in front of Ebisuya, and around 1pm, another CUC power crew was fixing a load side and line side cutout on Middle Road in Puerto Rico.

"Choi-Wan," Chinese for "colorful cloud," is the first typhoon to directly hit the CNMI this year.

ADDITIONAL

From Page 1

who exits the Commonwealth needs to obtain an E-2 CNMI investor visa from a U.S. embassy or consulate in order to be re-admitted to the Commonwealth, regardless of nationality.

USCIS published on Monday (Tuesday Saipan time) the proposed E-2 CNMI investor program in the Federal Register.

The public has until Oct. 14, 2009 to comment on the proposed regulations, a copy of which can be accessed at http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-21967.pdf.

USCIS is one of the components of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, which is the lead agency implementing the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008, extending U.S. immigration laws to the CNMI with transition provisions unique to the islands.

Jim Arenovski, president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said yesterday the key provisions of the proposed investor regulations, as published, are not much different from what DHS officials had told the Chamber.

"What's most disappointing is that foreign investors will be required to get additional visa outside the CNMI. They need to get extra documents from the U.S. embassy or consulate in Korea or China, for example, to allow them to re-enter the CNMI. That will take hours and days, and it could really be frustrating. The E-2 CNMI investor visa is good only within the CNMI for work purposes; it won't be used for re-entry purposes," he said.

Arenovski said the same policy of securing an E-2 CNMI investor status outside the Commonwealth is likely to be applied also to foreign workers.

DHS has yet to issue its CNMI-only transitional worker program rule.

"It's also a bit disappointing that foreign investors who have been here for a long time won't be grandfathered in the proposed regulations beyond five years. We understand that things will change in the future…But foreign investors who have been here and invested much will have a hard time meeting the federal requirements," he said.

Press secretary Charles Reyes said yesterday the Office of the Attorney General is currently reviewing the proposed investor rule.

The Fitial administration, along with the Chamber of Commerce, has been pushing for further delay in the implementation of federalization, which is set to start on Nov. 28.

Undesirable investors

The Chamber president said that while the regulations, as proposed, will weed out "undesirable investors," the CNMI doesn't need the federal government to do this.

"There's no guarantee that they will weed out all these undesirable investors because even in the states, there are lots of illegal investors, employers not paying wages," he added.

The Chamber, which currently has over 150 member-businesses, is preparing its formal comments on the rule.

Arenovski encourages businesses to start preparing the requirements for them to apply for an E-2 CNMI status.

"Don't wait too long. Start putting together the needed documents, like tax records," he said.

DHS estimates 500 foreign investors in the CNMI.

In its notice of proposed rulemaking in the Sept. 14 Federal Register, DHS said applicants would be required to apply for an E-2 CNMI investor status either before the start of the transition date of Nov. 28, or within the first two years following the start of the transition period.

Because an E-2 CNMI investor nonimmigrant status is a CNMI-only status, the rule proposes that each alien must be present in the CNMI or outside the United States at the time his or her application is filed with USCIS.

"Upon approval, an alien outside the CNMI would need to obtain an E-2 CNMI investor nonimmigrant visa at a United States consulate abroad to be admitted to the CNMI as an E-2 CNMI investor on or after the transition program effective date," USCIS said.

The proposed special status of E-2 investors would allow eligible CNMI investors to remain in the CNMI for the duration of the transition period under E-2 CNMI investor status.

At the end of the transition period, E-2 CNMI investors and qualifying spouses and children must qualify for and obtain an appropriate immigrant or non-immigrant status under the Immigration and Nationality Act in order to remain in the CNMI or to enter the CNMI after departure.

The current processing fee for an E-2 CNMI investor status is $320, plus an $80 biometrics fee for a total of $400.

Eligibility requirements

DHS is proposing to amend its regulations governing E-2 nonimmigrant treaty investors to establish procedures for classifying long-term investors in the CNMI as E-2 non-immigrants.

In order to be eligible for an E-2 CNMI Investor nonimmigrant status, USCIS proposes to require that an alien must:

■ Have been admitted to the CNMI in "long-term investor" status before the transition program effective date on Nov. 28;

■ Have continuously maintained residence in long-term investor status;

■ Maintain an investment or investments forming the basis for such long-term investment status; and

■ Be otherwise admissible to the United States under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

USCIS said aliens who have not been admitted as eligible CNMI investors prior to the beginning of the transition period are not eligible for classification as E-2 CNMI investors.

TINIAN

From Page 3

be provided them.

"Until this time, we have no idea how much we raised from that fundraising on Saipan. We don't know where the money [went]. And when I [asked] him about the report, you call it embarrassment?" San Nicolas asked.

San Nicolas said Cruz's departure will have no impact on the Covenant Party campaign. "I don't see any impact on our campaign because people know who he is…both Republican and Covenant. The party is still moving forward [without him]," he said.

At a luncheon meeting Monday, Edward Shai, current president of the Tinian Republican Party, welcomed Cruz back to the party. "On behalf of our party, we welcome you back with open arms," said Shai.

Former senator Ray Dela Cruz, now a candidate for Tinian mayor, was happy at regaining an old supporter. "I really respect Joe for what he is doing. He made a great sacrifice, leaving his job to support me and the other Tinian Republican Party candidates. I know Joe is a man of loyalty, but he is also a man who puts integrity first. The personal sacrifice that he has made to leave the Covenant Party and rejoin the Republican Party at this time is a clear indication that there are serious problems within the current administration that need to be rectified if we are to get Tinian's gaming industry get back on track."

PSS reports no damage, ready to resume classes

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

All public schools on Saipan and Tinian are ready to resume classes today following cleanup activities at its campuses yesterday morning.

Peter Le'au, the Public School System's associate Commissioner for Administrative Services, said that Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan ordered the transfer of evacuees to the Ada Gymnasium and the Kagman Community Center around 11am yesterday so schools could clean up and prepare their campuses for today's resumption of classes.

Since Monday, classes on the two islands were suspended as a result of the typhoon warning for the islands.

Le'au said that, although there were many evacuees initially noted in schools that were designated as typhoon shelters, their numbers went down since early yesterday morning.

With many affected families returning to their villages, the remaining evacuees were transferred to the gymnasium yesterday, Le'au said.

Le'au said that school administrators, teachers, and staff volunteered to do the cleanup in their respective campuses to ensure the smooth flow of classes today.

Yesterday, the PSS management team was stationed at the central office on Capital Hill, monitoring the conditions in every school.

"No minor or major damage were reported in any of our school during the two-day typhoon," Le'au said. Besides fallen plants and trees on campuses, the schools managed to fix everything by noon yesterday. Minor repairs conducted during the summer period helped prevent leaks in classrooms and other school buildings.

School buses, which were also used in transporting evacuees to shelters since Monday, were back at the Lower Base station yesterday noon.

"We checked our buses…and these are now stationed at the Lower Base. They are in good condition and are ready for our kids [today]," Le'au said.

On Tinian, schools did not report any typhoon evacuees.

According to Tinian Mayor Jose P. San Nicolas, the municipality made necessary preparations for the typhoon to prevent damage to homes and buildings.

Precautionary measures and steps were provided to the public since Day 1, he added.

Besides public schools on Tinian and Saipan, students of the Northern Marianas College are also expected to report today for regular classes.

CUC eyes settlement in engineer's lawsuit for injuries in cable blast

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has been negotiating to settle a lawsuit filed by one of its engineers who sustained severe injuries when a high voltage cable at the Saipan International Airport exploded.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson approved yesterday an agreement between CUC and plaintiffs Roberto and Maria Theresa Malate to extend their time to file court papers.

Munson gave CUC until 3:30pm of Nov. 2, 2009, to file an answer or any other responses to the lawsuit.

"The court stands ready to assist the parties in settlement negotiations should they feel the court's efforts would be useful," the judge said.

CUC's lawyer, Timothy M. Connor, informed the court on Friday that CUC and the Malate couple are engaged in efforts toward an early resolution of the case, including exploring the possibility of early mediation.

Connor said CUC and the couple wish to avoid the time and expense and other difficulties related to litigation while the parties engage in early mediation.

He said they have agreed to extend CUC's time to respond to the complaint by 60 days.

Roberto Malate, an engineer at CUC's Power Division, had sued CUC and the Commonwealth Ports Authority for negligence and reckless infliction of emotional distress. His wife, Maria Theresa, joined in the lawsuit to claim damages for loss of consortium.

The Malate couple asked the court to order the defendants to pay them damages, attorney's fees, and court costs.

According to the complaint, on Aug. 20, 2007 at 4am, then CUC executive director Anthony Guerrero instructed Malate to proceed to CPA to assist then CPA executive director Stanley Torres Jr. about their problem with a transformer at the airport.

Malate, Torres and CPA personnel tried to find out why there was no power going to the transformer from CPA's generator.

Malate determined that the problem with CPA's high voltage underground cable and not the transformer. He recommended that CPA hire a contractor to fix the faulty high voltage cable.

As Malate was about to leave, Torres asked him to identify the faulty cable again. They returned to the pad mount transformer to again identify which cable had a problem.

During this testing, the high voltage cable exploded, severely injuring Malate.

Malate sustained injuries such as second- and third-degree burns on the face, ears, neck, arms, and hands.

After two days at the Commonwealth Health Center, Malate was referred by CHC and the Workers' Compensation Commission to a hospital in the Philippines for further treatment.

The complaint alleged that CUC failed to provide documentation of Malate's employment to WCC in a timely manner, thereby delaying his treatment.

Malate also claimed that delayed paperwork forced him to spend his own money to obtain treatment in Manila.

Ex-CUC chief Guerrero approved for travel to Japan

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court has allowed former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Anthony C. Guerrero to travel to Nagoya, Japan.

Guerrero, who is facing a three-year probation sentence for his participation in the Rydlyme corruption scandal, was granted leave to travel after the U.S. Probation Office supported his request due to his full compliance with probation conditions.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson gave the order yesterday.

Guerrero wants to travel to Nagoya between Sept. 26 to Oct. 3, 2009, to meet with

Guerrero

healthcare equipment providers and facility operators regarding business opportunities for his company.

Guerrero is now the director of Business Development for Allied Professional Services, LLC, a company he founded with his brother.

In giving him permission to travel, Munson ordered Guerrero to abide by his conditions of supervised release while in Japan and required him to call his probation officer if he changes accommodation or location.

Munson also ordered the former CUC official to call his probation officer within 24 hours upon his return to Saipan.

In his request to travel to Nagoya, Guerrero said that, upon arrival back on Saipan, he will provide details regarding his mode of transportation and accommodation in Japan.

U.S. Probation Officer Melinda N. Brunson supported Guerrero's request. She informed the court that Guerrero has complied fully with his probation conditions.

Brunson said that on July 10, 2009, Guerrero paid in full a $100 special assessment fee and a $6,000 fine.

Guerrero submitted on Aug. 18, 2009, to the collection of a DNA sample. He has completed 80 hours of community work service at the American Memorial Park and is gainfully employed, according to Brunson.

Guerrero was mired in the case involving former Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez, former Commerce Secretary James A. Santos, and Joaquina V. Santos, who were charged with engaging in a scheme to bilk the CNMI government out of thousands of dollars with needless purchases of a descalant chemical with a brand name Rydlyme.

Guerrero was charged with wire fraud, conspiracy, and theft of federal funds.

Shortly after the indictment was filed in federal court in August 2008, Guerrero immediately signed a plea agreement with the U.S. government, pleading guilty to conspiracy.

Villagomez and the Santos couple were convicted in a trial and are now serving their sentences in federal prisons.

2 NMI students named semifinalists in nat'l scholarship

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two students from the Commonwealth are among the semifinalists in the 2010 National Merit Scholarship Program, providing them an opportunity to continue in the competition for various merit scholarships worth more than $36 million.

Selyna F. Leon Guerrero and Marya R. Oestreich, both from Saipan International School, were chosen among the 16,000 semifinalists in the 55th Annual National Merit Scholarship Program, which will be offered in the Spring semester.

To be included in the merit scholarship award, semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the finalist level of the competition.

According to SIS headmaster Dr. Dale Jenkins, SIS students have been named to the prestigious scholarship program each year and in 2008, at least two of its students were chosen among the merit awardees.

"It's wonderful to see them do so well. There are over one and a half million students who took the exam and to be among the finalists, I am proud of them. It shows that hard work and efforts pay off," Dr. Jenkins told *Saipan Tribune*.

Jenkins said Leon Guerrero is a senior student while Oestreich has just transferred to a school in the United States.

The National Merit Scholarship is a non-profit organization established in 1955 specifically to conduct the annual NMSP.

Scholarships are underwritten by NMSC with its own funds and by approximately 500 business organizations and higher education institutions that share the same goals of honoring the nation's scholastic champions and encouraging the pursuit of academic excellence.

Saipan Tribune learned that of the 16,000 semifinalists, about 90 percent of them are expected to attain finalist standing and half of them will win a national merit scholarship, earning the merit scholar title.

More than 1.5 million juniors in about 22,000 high schools entered the program by taking the 2008 preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship qualifying test, which served as an initial screen of program entrants.

The semifinalists, *Saipan Tribune* learned, include the highest scoring entrants in each state.

Approximately 15,000 semifinalists are expected to advance to the finalists level and it is from the group that all national merit scholarship winners will be chosen. Merit scholars are selected on the basis of their skills, accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies.

Child Passenger Safety Week
September 12 – 18, 2009

Child restraints work best when used correctly.

Three out of four child safety seats are improperly installed according to research by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. For proper instructions please visit our child passenger safety website. www.nhtsa.gov/cps

Failure to read and follow the child safety seat instructions, in addition to vehicle owner manual instructions regarding installation, could result in serious injury or death as a result of a failure of the child safety seat to be securely or properly restrained.

NHTSA recommends that children who have outgrown their child safety seats should ride in booster seats until they are at least 8 years old, unless they are 4'9" or taller.

Children under 13 are safest when properly buckled in the back seat of a motor vehicle.

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San Jose, Saipan, MP 96950

OIA: Pohnpeian soldier dies in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON D.C.—U.S. Army Sergeant Youvert Loney, 28, of Palikir, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia died Saturday, Sept. 5, in Abad, Afghanistan.

According to a report in the Office of Insular Affairs' Web site, Sgt. Loney was killed when enemy forces attacked his vehicle using small arms and recoilless rifle fire.

Loney

Sgt. Loney first joined the U.S. Army on Oct. 3, 2005, and was posted to Fort Carson, Colorado on May 23, 2006. He fought in Operation Iraqi Freedom from October 2006 to December 2007 and then deployed to Afghanistan on June 5, 2009, where he was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division. He died on Sept. 5 in Abad, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked his vehicle using small arms and recoilless rifle fire.

Sgt. Loney had earned a Purple Heart, an Army Commendation Medal, an Army Good Conduct Medal, an Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Combat Star, and Combat Infantry Badge during his service.

It is expected that on Sept. 18, the remains of Sgt. Loney will arrive on his home island of Pohnpei, Micronesia, where he is expected to be buried with full military honors. Sgt. Loney is survived by his wife, two children and father, Ioakim Loney.

"The Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs remembers and honors the men and women of the insular areas who offer up the ultimate sacrifice in the War on Terror. The Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs also recognizes all who have served and currently serve in the United States Armed Forces," the OIA stated on its Web site. ***(OIA)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy 1st birthday to Quinton Pierre Santos. Greetings come from your loving Mom and Dad.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to Marla Helbert who is celebrating her 18th birthday today! Much love coming from all your family and friends and your favorite counselor! Have a great one!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 3rd birthday to Izea Joseign Vallo Dimaun. Greetings coming from Tita Friend, Tita Jhie, Ate Iver, Mommy and Daddy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Weilbacher retires after 30 years with Marines

The Federated States of Micronesia's longest serving U.S. Marine has retired after 30 years of military service.

Marine Sgt. Major O'Neal O. Weilbacher stood at attention during his retirement ceremony on Sept. 11, 2009, at Camp Pendleton, California.

In attendance at the ceremony were FSM Ambassador to the United States Yosiwo George, Bermin Weilbacher, Kosrae State Gov. Robert Weilbacher, first lady and Oneal's mother, Serlina Olter; his two brothers, a sister, and numerous cousins, nephews, and nieces currently serving in the U.S. military.

Sgt. Maj. Weilbacher served two tours in Iraq, and one tour in Afghanistan. ***(PR)***

U.S. MARINES

Sgt. Maj. O'Neal O. Weilbacher, standing third from right, poses with eight relatives from Micronesia, who all serve in the military during his retirement ceremony at Camp Pendleton, Calif., on Sept. 11, 2009. Weilbacher retired after 30 years of service.

4th Guantanamo detainee agrees to move to Palau

KOROR, Palau (AP)—A fourth Chinese Muslim detainee held at Guantanamo Bay has agreed to be relocated to the tiny Pacific island nation of Palau, officials said Tuesday.

Relocating the Uighurs would bring the Obama administration a step closer to its goal of finding new homes for terrorism suspects and others captured in Afghanistan who have been cleared of wrongdoing but cannot go home for fear of persecution. China regards the Uighurs as terrorist suspects and wants them returned.

"Four detainees have agreed to come to Palau," Isaac Soaladaob, Palau President Johnson Toribiong's chief of staff, told The Associated Press. Lawyers for three detainees told the AP last week they would resettle there.

Mark Bezner, the top U.S. official on Palau, confirmed that four have agreed and said negotiations continue with the nine other Uighur detainees held in the U.S. prison at Guantanamo Bay.

"There could be others to accept" the offer of resettlement on Palau, Bezner said.

A total of 17 Uighurs (pronounced WEE'-gurs), Turkic Muslims from far western China, were held by the United States since their capture in Afghanistan and Pakistan in 2001. The Pentagon determined last year they were not "enemy combatants," but they have been in legal limbo ever since.

Four Uighurs held prisoner at Guantanamo Bay were resettled in Bermuda in June.

Palau, a developing country of 20,000 that is dependent on U.S. development funds, in June offered to take the Uighurs.

No Uighurs currently live on Palau, which has a Muslim population of about 400, mostly migrant workers from Bangladesh.

The relocation agreements need U.S. Congressional approval, a process that is expected to take about two weeks.

Dereas sentenced to 18 months in prison

Leonardo M. Rapadas, the U.S. Attorney for the districts of Guam and the Northern Marinas Islands, announced last week that Luciano L. Dereas, aka Julius Dereas, was sentenced by U.S. Chief Judge Alex R. Munson to 18 months in prison for aiding and assisting preparation of false tax returns.

Dereas will be on supervised release for three years after his release from prison and was ordered to pay a $100 special assessment fee.

The case was investigated by the IRS Special Agents Shaun Morita and Craig Wyly. The prosecution was handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kirk W. Schuler. ***(PR)***

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Saipan artist tapped for book drawings

Rommel Imperial, a Saipan artist, has been awarded a contract with Walking the Line Publications to produce pen and ink drawings for a new book being released next spring, according to Kevan Clawson, author of the new book.

While living on Tinian, Clawson wrote a new book titled *The Enhanced New Testament.* The book will include pen and ink drawings from Imperial relating to the stories of the New Testament. These beautiful drawings will also be available for purchase online at the company website: www.walkingthelinebooks.com

According to Clawson, his book is not a commentary on the New Testament but provides actual quotes from ancient Jewish and Christian sources that provide insight into the people, places, and events surrounding the life of Jesus Christ.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Saipan artist Rommel Imperial.

"There are hundreds of books, letters, and other ancient Christian and Jewish manuscripts not included in our modern Bible that provide additional information about the life of Jesus, his Apostles, and the early Christians," said Clawson.

The sources used in this book are varied: historians such as Josephus (a Jew) and Eusebius (a Christian); philosophers such as Philo (a Jew) and Origen (an early Christian); sacred manuscripts such as the Mishna (the Oral Law of the Jews), the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Nag Hammadi Library, the Pseudepigrapha and Hagiography (Christian writings not included in the Bible); and many other apocryphal sources of information relating to the New Testament.

The book is in the final stages of editing and will be available in stores and online sometime next spring. ***(PR)***

PRIORITY OF SERVICE

Pursuant to the Jobs for Veterans Act (US PL 107-288) (38 USC 4215), priority of service is provided to veterans (and certain spouses) who otherwise meet the eligibility requirements for all employment and training programs funded by the USDOL to include funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

For more information, contact WIA at 664-1704; 1707;1708 and 1757 or email us at gov.wia@pticom.com.

This community outreach is funded by a grant made possible under the USDOL Employment and Training Administration.

ROTA CASINO GAMING COMMISSION (RCGC)
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 1547 ROTA, MP 96951

PURSUANT TO THE OPEN GOVERNMENT ACT, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION, DIEGO M. SONGAO HEREBY ANNOUNCES THAT THE ROTA CASINO GAMING COMMISSION'S REGULAR MEETING FOR 18, SEPTEMBER 2009.

DATE: **Friday, 18 SEPTEMBER 2009**

TIME: **2:30 PM**

LOCATION: **Antonio Camacho Atalig Memorial Annex Building, Rota Casino Gaming Commission's Office, Tatachog, Rota, MP 96951**

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Adoption of Agenda
IV. Adoption of Minutes
V. Chairman's Report
VI. Old Business
- None
VII. New Business
- RCGC Operation
VIII. Miscellaneous
IX. Adjournment

*At anytime during the meeting, the Commission may move to Executive Session.

/s/ Diego M. Songao **15, September 2009**
Chairman

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

1ST AMENDED REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
for the Procurement and Installation of a Non-Directional (Rotating) Beacon at the Tinian International Airport

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified companies to procure and install a brand new non-directional (rotating) beacon at the Tinian International Airport. Proposals are to include procurement, installation and testing of the new beacon with a 1-year warranty and 1-year preventive maintenance services. Beacon specifications are as follows with all new components:

- No less than sixty feet (60') high;
- Must withstand at least 190 MPH winds;
- Have a 1.5 gust factor;
- Include a climbing device and basket tower;
- Include a beacon light with 120 VAC, lens, pulse start, obstruction lights, lightning rod; and
- Installation of electrical including new wiring, splicing and breaker.

All requirements under FAA Advisory Circular 150/5345-12E, "Specifications for Airport and Heliport Beacons" must be adhered to during the procurement and installation of this equipment.

Furthermore, included in the work is the removal and complete disposal of the existing tower. Disposal site is the responsibility of the contractors but it must be located outside CPA's property.

The proposals shall include the following:

- Letter of Interest;
- Project timeframe;
- Available resources to accomplish project;
- Cost Proposal (in itemized scope of work format);
- Valid CNMI Business License; and
- Proof of insurance.

A walk-through inspection will be conducted on **Friday, September 25, 2009 at 8:30 a.m.** in order to assess the area and determine equipment and materials needed for the installation. Attendance at this walkthrough is mandatory for any companies interested in submitting proposals. Prospective proposers will meet at the office of the Tinian Ports Manager at the Tinian International Airport on the date and time mentioned above.

The contract period for design and replacement will be based on the contractor's proposal. However, liquidated damages of $500.00 shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

All proposals are to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked with the respective RFP description to the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, October 9, 2009.**

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals may be delivered to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at the Saipan International Airport, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.admin@pticom.com.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 3.6. CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: September 15, 2009

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

Tinian Harbor Improvements
CPA-TS-001-09

1st AMENDED REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals to repair certain features to the dock at the Tinian Harbor. A detailed scope of work will be available at the office of the Executive Office on Thursday, September 3, 2009.

The proposals shall include the following:

- Letter of Interest;
- Project timeframe;
- Available resources to accomplish project;
- Cost Proposal (in itemized scope of work format);
- Valid CNMI Business License; and
- Proof of insurance.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: ***"Proposal for Improvements at the Tinian Harbor, CPA-TS-001-09"***. The proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, October 9, 2009**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

Questions will be accepted until October 2, 2009 and are to be submitted in writing to the office of the Executive Director or emailed to cpa.admin@pticom.com.

A pre-proposal conference will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, September 25, 2009 at the office of the Tinian Ports Manager at the Tinian International Airport. Attendance at this pre-proposal conference is mandatory and only contractors present at the pre-proposal meeting will be allowed to submit proposals.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 3.6. CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: September 15, 2009

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 16, 1999

Murkowski pushes for federal takeover

Saying local immigration control in the Northern Marianas remains inadequate, U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Frank Murkowski (R-Alaska) yesterday pushed legislation seeking extension of federal immigration laws to the islands. While acknowledging the package of labor and immigration reforms put in place by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio's administration, the senator believed these efforts still showed limitations in CNMI's ability to handle these functions. "If immigration control proves beyond the local government, measures must be taken to remedy the situation," he said at a hearing held Tuesday in Washington D.C. (Wednesday local time).

SGMA appeal to Senate committee

Amid opposition to a planned federal takeover in the Northern Marianas, the Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association has asked the Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources to look closely at the consequences of any legislative solution it may consider imposing in the CNMI. Even with a graduated reduction in foreign workforce as proposed under SB 1052, the CNMI loses not only management but control over its immediate economic future. "Success in driving the apparel sector out of business may translate as well into the resumption of operating subsidies for a crippled CNMI," SGMA said in a position paper submitted to the committee.

Sept. 16, 2002

NMC starts ball rolling

Officials of the Northern Marianas College are set to meet this week with the Senate leadership, during which NMC president PhD. Kenneth Wright will present his proposal to make the college a springboard for Asian students who want to study in American colleges. The meeting is expected to result in the drafting of the necessary legislation that would provide the enabling mechanism for the project. This comes soon after the Senate leadership met with ranking NMC officials last week to discuss, among other issues, the proposal to expand NMC's student population by accepting international students. "We did meet last week and we will be meeting again this week with Dr. Wright. He's going to present to us his proposal to bring in Japanese students and other Asian students to the NMC where they can study in preparation for enrolment in American colleges and universities," said Senate President Paul A. Manglona yesterday.

American Red Cross launches Club 200

The American Red Cross formally launched Friday its 15th anniversary's month-long Club 200 Carnivale fundraising event with no less than Gov. Juan N. Babauta and Lt. Governor Diego T. Benavente buying the first two raffle tickets during the ceremony. The event, according to organizers, will be held for three days from Oct. 11 to 13 at the American Memorial Park. "This year's celebration will be very different. We're holding it outside the hotel and it will run for three days. It's definitely a family event," ARC co-chairman Juan Guerrero said in an interview. Unlike previous Club 200 celebrations, ARC officials will provide carnival rides, games and food stalls at the park for the whole community to enjoy, he said.

Sept. 16, 2003

Massive coral deaths on Anatahan

The volcanic eruption on Anatahan not only buried the island in ash and killed its vegetation but it also caused heavy sedimentation on the waters surrounding the island, resulting in massive coral deaths that have disturbed marine life. Federal and local scientists fear that the impact of ash sedimentation on Anatahan's waters and its coral reefs would continue for many years. The scientists-who were among the group aboard the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Oscar Elton Sette ship-found this out during a scientific expedition in the Marianas. In certain areas, the scientists said they spotted not a single fish.

Tanapag cancer patient dies

The Tanapag Action Group is asking federal authorities to undertake more environmental cleanup in the village even as a resident cancer patient who was believed to have been exposed to chemical contamination in Tanapag died and was buried Friday. TAG member Ben Sablan said the woman, Evelyn Cabrera, died on the first week of this month shortly after being hospitalized. "She died and was buried last Friday," said Sablan, while expressing belief that her illness was caused by exposure to chemicals in the former military sites located in the village.

Kilili: $318,082 in weatherization funds awarded

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) announced yesterday that the Northern Mariana Islands has been awarded $318,082 for weatherization assistance to low-income families. The program is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which Congress enacted in February. The funding is expected to weatherize 175 homes in the NMI over the next three years, which should lower energy costs for residents.

"We know that many families are spending more and more for utilities," said Sablan. "And this means less and less for food and health care and other critical expenses.

"These weatherization grants will help reduce what is spent to pay for energy, leaving more for other things," he said. "The money will also go into the local economy helping to stimulate business activity and create jobs."

The Commonwealth is expected to spend as much as $6,500 to weatherize each home.

The weatherization program will be available to families making up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level—or about $44,000 a year for a family of four.

The Commonwealth's funds will be administered by the Department of Public Works, Energy Division, and since this is the first time that the Northern Mariana Islands have been included in the weatherization program, the territory will emphasize training and technical assistance. Weatherization workers and administrators will be trained to maximize energy savings in homes, minimize production costs, protect the health and safety of the clients and workers, and ensure transparency and accountability in the program.

Twenty percent of the program funds can be used to hire and train workers.

The Energy Division will also perform inspections on 100 percent of all weatherized homes to ensure the effectiveness of the program.

After demonstrating successful implementation of its plan, the Commonwealth will receive almost $400,000 in additional funding, for a total of more than $795,000.

Weatherization projects allow low-income families to save money by making their homes more energy efficient. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates this means an average saving of 32 percent for air-conditioning and savings of hundreds of dollars per year on overall energy bills.

Energy Secretary Steven Chu said: "These awards demonstrate the Obama Administration's strong commitment to moving quickly as part of the country's economic recovery. Today's investments will save money for hard working families, reduce pollution, strengthen local economies, and help move America toward a clean energy future." ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Classes resume today on Saipan, Tinian

This is to inform parents and guardians that all public schools on Tinian and Saipan will resume classes today, Sept. 16, 2009. Parents and guardians are advised to take precautionary measures as they take their children to school due to post-typhoon wind and rain that may still be in the vicinity of Saipan and Tinian. ***(PR)***

Jury selection rescheduled

This is to inform all prospective jurors for panel "LS" that the jury selections scheduled for Sept. 15, 2009, at 1pm in courtroom 202A was postponed to Sept. 17, 2009, at 1pm. For further notice, contact jury coordinator Dora Sn. Decena or deputy clerk Rosie Ada at 236-9765. ***(PR)***

Radio talk show to highlight Covenant

Marianas Agupa, a Chamorro talk show program hosted by Glenn H. Manglona, will feature Vicente N. Santos, vice chairman of the Northern Marianas Political Status Commission, who will be discussing key issues of the Covenant that led to the political union with the United States, on Sept, 19, 2009, Saturday, from 9am to 11am, on Magic 100.3 FM, with simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com. For more information, contact marianasagupa@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Car seat, seatbelt checkpoints

The Department of Public Safety will be conducting car seat inspections and occupant protection child restraint checkpoints on Saipan in the next few days as part of the "Child Passenger Safety Week."

■ On Sept. 16, 2009, the first OP/CR checkpoint will be held on Chalan Pale Arnold Road, by the Army Reserve, from 9am to 10:15am. The second setup will be on Chalan Monsignor Road, Chalan Kiya, by the Waterloo, from 7pm to 8:15pm.

■ On Sept. 18, 2009, the first OP/CR checkpoint will be held on Beach Road, Susupe, by the Multipurpose Center, from 9am to 10:15am. The second setup will be on Beach Road, Chalan Kanoa by New Fresh Market from 7pm to 8:15pm.

■ On Sept. 19, 2009, the first OP/CR checkpoint will be held on Beach Road, Garapan, by Bank Pacific, from 9am to 10:15am. The second set up will be on Beach Road, San Jose, by Morgan Building, from 7pm to 8:15pm.

■ Courtesy car seat inspections will be held at the Joeten, Shopping Center, Susupe parking lot on Sunday, Sept. 20, 2009, from 11am to 4pm.

DPS will also be conducting courtesy car seat inspections and occupant protection child restraint checkpoints on the island of Tinian on Friday, Sept. 18, 2009, along Broadway Road, by the baseball field in San Jose Village, from 11am to 12:15pm. ***(DPS)***

Notice to all candidates for political office

The Office of the Public Auditor will be conducting presentations on campaign finance and reporting on the islands of Rota, Saipan, and Tinian. The dates and times for each of the presentations are as follows:

Tinian: Saturday, Sept. 19, 2009, 1pm to 3pm, Northern Marianas College-Tinian Instructional Site, Room D

Rota: Friday, Sept. 25, 2009, 5:30pm to 7:30pm, Northern Marianas College-Rota Instructional Site, Building B - Room B2

Saipan: Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2009, 5:30pm to 7:30pm, Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe.

Given the statutory restrictions relating to campaign spending and reporting, all candidates and their treasurers are strongly urged to attend. For more information, call OPA at 322-6481/2. ***(OPA)***

Nominees sought for Humanities Awards

The Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities is accepting nominations for the 2009 Governor's Humanities Awards.

Nominations may be submitted in one of five categories: Research and Publication in the Humanities; Preservation of Traditional Cultural Practices; Outstanding Humanities Teacher (both classroom and non-classroom settings); Preservation of CNMI History; and Lifetime Achievement in the Humanities.

The Lifetime Achievement will go to a nominee who has made significant contributions in the humanities over multiple decades. This award may be given posthumously.

The Council must receive nomination forms and accompanying supporting documentation no later than 4:30pm on Oct. 9, 2009. Nomination forms are available at the Council's new office in Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai or from its website at www.nmihumanities.org. ***(PR)***

Census 2010 JVAs extended

In order to allow potential applicants more time to submit applications for the 16 census 2010 positions opening up on October 1, 2009, the Department of Commerce has requested that the Office of Personnel Management extend the deadline for submissions, from the original date of Sept. 5, to the new deadline of Sept. 11, 2009. All potential applicants are encouraged to submit their applications to OPM and direct all pertinent questions regarding the positions to that office. ***(PR)***

John Gonzales Live schedule

Sept. 16: LIVE – Replays 9/20 and 9/21 @ 7-8 pm
PSS Headstart Program and Early Childhood Intervention Services: Mandates, & Expected Goals to be Achieved in School Year 2010. Guests: Keiko A. Yamagata, director, PSS Headstart Program; Suzanne Lizama, director, PSS Early Childhood Intervention Services.

Sept. 23: *LIVE* – Replays 9/27 and 9/28 @ 7-8 pm
Beach Road Corridor Revitalization and Adult Business Overlay Zoning Projects. Guests: Henry S. Hofschneider, Saipan Zoning board chairman; Victor Barrett, Saipan Zoning administrator; Joe Limes, Saipan Zoning board member.

Sept. 30: *LIVE* – Replays 10/4 and 10/5 @ 7-8 pm
Featuring Covenant Party Precinct III candidates' vision and platform. Guests: Felicidad 'Daling' Ogumoro, Edmund S. Villagomez, Jesus Elameto, David R. Maratita, and Henry K. Rabauliman.

Shows air on KSPN Channel 2; *LIVE* Text: 285-META; *LIVE* Call: 287-4230; E-mail: johngonzales@pticom.com. ***(PR)***

Marriage Encounter Weekend set

Help turn a good marriage into a great marriage through a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend! The CNMI's next Marriage Encounter Weekend will be on Oct. 16 – 18, 2009, at the Saipan Grand Hotel. Cost is $50 per couple. For further information or a registration form, contact any of the following:

John & Carol Hosono (Tel: 286-4997; e-mail: johnhosono@gmail.com)

Jun & Linda Pangelinan (Tel: 483-4111; e-mail: linpangelinan@gmail.com)

John & Vicky Mafnas (Tel: 285-8454; e-mail: vbmafnas@yahoo.com)

Fr. Ike Ayuyu (Tel: 234-8888; e-mail: ikeayuyu@gmail.com)

Vince & Hilma Castro (Tel: 287-8089; e-mail: hilmacastrome@gmail.com)

SHIPPING SCHEDULE

MARIANA EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SENOKO	027E	9/5 Sat	9/3 Thu	9/3 Thu	9/1 Tue	8/29 Sat	9/11 Fri	9/7 Mon	9/6 Sun	8/30 Sun	8/30 Sun	9/7 Mon	9/11 Fri	9/13 Sun	9/15 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	026E	9/12 Sat	9/10 Thu	9/10 Thu	9/8 Tue	9/5 Sat	9/18 Fri	9/14 Mon	9/13 Sun	9/6 Sun	9/6 Sun	9/14 Mon	9/18 Fri	9/20 Sun	9/22 Tue
MELL SEMBAWANG	019E	9/19 Sat	9/17 Thu	9/17 Thu	9/15 Tue	9/12 Sat	9/25 Fri	9/21 Mon	9/20 Sun	9/13 Sun	9/13 Sun	9/21 Mon	9/25 Fri	9/27 Sun	9/29 Tue
MELL SENOKO	028E	9/26 Sat	9/24 Thu	9/24 Thu	9/22 Tue	9/19 Sat	10/2 Fri	9/28 Mon	9/27 Sun	9/20 Sun	9/20 Sun	9/28 Mon	10/2 Fri	10/4 Sun	10/6 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	027E	10/3 Sat	10/1 Thu	10/1 Thu	9/29 Tue	9/26 Sat	10/9 Fri	10/5 Mon	10/4 Sun	9/27 Sun	9/27 Sun	10/5 Mon	10/9 Fri	10/11 Sun	10/13 Tue
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Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SENOKO	027E	9/19 Sat	9/20 Sun	9/20 Sun	9/22 Tue	9/23 Wed	9/25 Fri	9/27 Sun	SKIP	10/2 Fri	10/3 Sat	10/8 Thu	10/27 Tue	10/11 Sun	10/7 Wed
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MELL SENTOSA	027E	10/17 Sat	10/18 Sun	10/18 Sun	10/20 Tue	10/21 Wed	10/23 Fri	10/25 Sun	SKIP	10/30 Fri	10/31 Sat	11/5 Thu	11/24 Tue	11/8 Sun	11/4 Wed
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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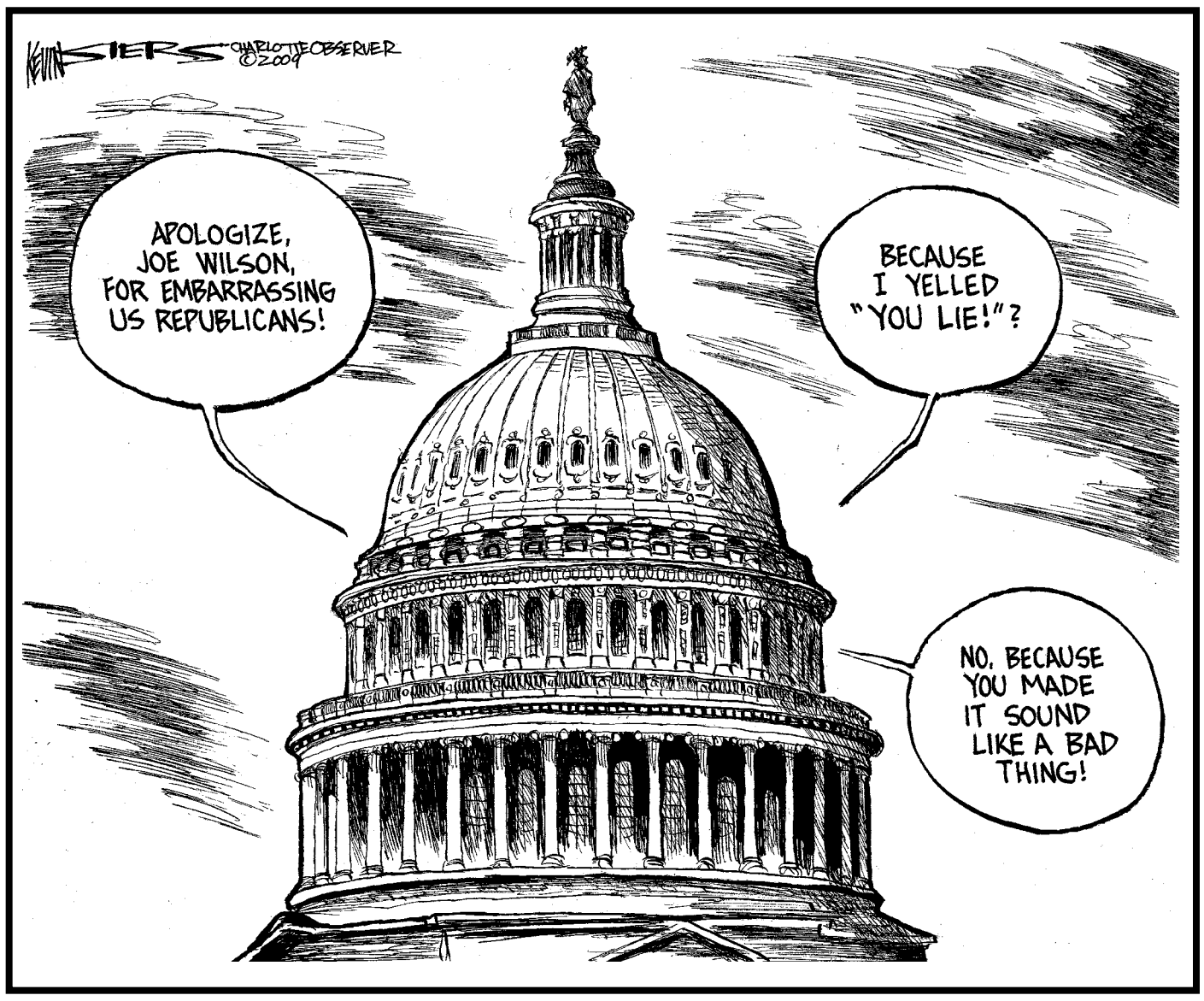
KEVIN SIERS
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
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APOLOGIZE, JOE WILSON, FOR EMBARRASSING US REPUBLICANS!
BECAUSE I YELLED "YOU LIE!"?
NO. BECAUSE YOU MADE IT SOUND LIKE A BAD THING!

EDITORIAL

The 'Forgotten War'

Five years ago, Sen. John F. Kerry argued during his presidential campaign that the United States had dangerously neglected the war in Afghanistan. On Thursday, when he convened a hearing of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to hear a status report on Iraq from U.S. Ambassador Christopher R. Hill, only five of the panel's 19 members showed up long enough to ask a question. "Iraq today ... has become the now-forgotten war," Mr. Kerry rather ruefully concluded.

The senator has good reason for concern. While Afghanistan has properly become a focus in Washington, the U.S. mission in Iraq is far from finished. Monthly U.S. fatalities declined into the single digits this summer after American troops withdrew from Iraqi cities—but Iraqi civilian casualties in August were the highest in a year. Iraq remains at the strategic center of the Middle East: As Mr. Hill noted, it could be "an engine for regional stability and economic growth" or "a source of regional tension and dispute."

Iraq also is entering a crucial year. National elections in January could determine whether Iraq moves away from the sectarian divisions that triggered a virtual civil war in 2006 and whether its fledgling democratic system survives or gives way to a new authoritarianism. In the seven months after the election, the United States is due to reduce its forces by more than 60 percent. If the country is not stable, al-Qaida and Iraq's neighbors will be quick to exploit the vacuum.

The question is whether the Obama administration is paying more attention than the rest of the country. Some of its own supporters are worried: Kenneth Pollack, an expert at the Brookings Institution, says that the administration is not using its leverage with Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki on matters crucial to the success of the elections. One is whether Iraq will allow voting for its parliament by district; many of its parties favor a system of national slates that could reinforce sectarian divisions. Another is whether Mr. Maliki will promote the staging of a referendum on the presence of U.S. troops in Iraq. Such a vote could help the prime minister win re-election—and force a precipitous American withdrawal.

Mr. Hill offered a relatively upbeat view in his testimony. He said that he does not expect the referendum on U.S. forces to go forward. He played down the increasing violence, saying that al-Qaida's attacks have not succeeded in provoking Iraqis into returning to sectarian conflict.

The larger question remains, as Sen. Richard G. Lugar, R-Ind., said Thursday, "Are we at risk of taking our eyes off the other ball as the attention and resources shift from Iraq?" President Obama delegated management of Iraq to Vice President Joe Biden in June; since then Mr. Obama has appeared to spare it little of his attention. Officials say that Mr. Biden has been energetic, taking time for Iraq every day and quietly intervening on key issues. We hope that reflects an understanding that, even if many in Congress and the nation have moved on, the administration cannot afford to remain detached from the momentous political process in Baghdad.

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America by Rails: On the Coast Starlight from Los Angeles

Travel notes, live and on virtual time (a social commentary)

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

The Coast Starlight travels from Los Angeles to Seattle, Washington, with a throughway connection from San Diego, and continuing from Seattle to a throughway connection for Vancouver, BC, Canada, for the second bookends.

In my time, L. A. news was dominated by the three Bs—Beverly Hills of the palatial homes of the movie moguls, bewitched Bel Air of the movie stars, and O. J. Simpson's Brentwood neighborhood on West Hollywood.

My familiarity to this geography began in 1966 when as a young student, I waiter'd for a Polynesian-motif'd restaurant called The Luau on Rodeo Drive, head office of the Port o'Call and Kon-Tiki restaurant chain of Sheraton Hotels, while commuting from S. Figueroa on 137th St. in Watts, a year after the riots. It was a two-hour commute each way through central L.A.

Rodeo Drive was a sleepy tree-shaded street before it became an extension of exclusive DFS boutiques. By the city on Santa Monica are the famed beaches of Venice, Manhattan, and Redondo where the disgrace of the 99 lb. weakling originated, and the masculine image of the body builder flourished, when Rock Hudson's masculinity was still unassailably pristine. Malibu Beach is further north though that geographical designation no longer refers to direction but to the fabulous world of fantasy that this part of California has spawned.

The famous Santa Monica Blvd. is where many homes on its borders sport a placard that reads: "I believe in I DO, the right to marry." Proposition 8 derailed that rail in CA's social policies, but Sunset Boulevard has since become L.A.'s Bay Area Castro district where nobody minds when guys exchange heartfelt lingering abrazos, and the girls do not hesitate to hold hands while wriggling breast-to-breast and hip-to-hip. It continues to be where the aspiring movie star makes a point to be widely seen, and Rodeo Drive is where the rest of the world now wants to be spotted shopping. The image is the message; what you see is not necessarily what is real.

What is real is my High School class valedictorian from the INHS60 in Laoag City. From Marcos' Ilocos Norte, he waded through UP's program for PhyScience cum laude, hitched a Fulbright scholarship at U Hawaii's East-West Center, moved to California as a social weather statistician, and decided to go after his original passion—medicine. Degree'd in Grenada, licensed in California, he honed his Spanish and serves the low income Latinos as El Doctor Bueno with the doggedness of a Gandhi and the compassion of a Mother Teresa, from a storefront in Wilmington, a mile from the Port of Los Angeles.

In the current emotionally strung debate on Obama healthcare where the standard practice is a national shouting match across aisles and picket lines, town halls and legislatures, El Doctor Bueno is an anomaly. He treats people out of a clinic wedged between a nail care center and a jewelry shop, on a cash-only basis, charging a consultation fee that is barely a third of what is charged by private and public medical centers.

Frugal in his personal spending, the Doctor earns his money by running a clinic that is homey to his low-income clients, eschews filling forms of entitlement programs such as Medicare and Medicaid, charges low and runs his own pharmacy that dispenses medicine at half the cost of the Rite Aid four doors away. His regimen of remedies is biased against dependence on antibiotics and too much pharmacological interventions, in lieu of homegrown remedies of herbs and other organic resource. He is himself his own manager, administrator, clerk, receptionist, pharmacist and janitor. A local nurse's aide helps keep the clinic running, which gives him a rebate from the city for employing a town resident.

His general practitioner bedside manner earns him a loyal following, and his loyalty to them is shown by the fact that if a patient returns with the same ailment, they do not get charged with a consultation fee again. The cost of health care has become prohibitive for many reasons, one being the padding on billings for unnecessary lab tests and services to defray the high cost of malpractice insurance and other litigations.

El Doctor Bueno views the current legislative policy deliberations with benign equanimity—a this-too-will-pass stance, and now at a retireable age, he continues to serve his chosen clientele in the tradition of selflessness and compassion before healthcare became a franchised profitable commercial venture—still with due diligence, efficiency and effectivity!

Though eminently qualified to show how ridiculous the current dichotomy between public option and private enterprise is in providing adequate health services, neither an either/or but a

See AMERICA on Page 11

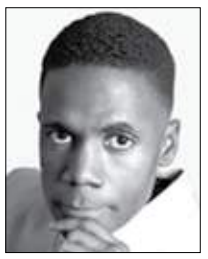
EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Doing business on Saipan? Letters from Bill

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune



The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

Here are some highlights from an email exchange I've been having with "Bill," a visitor to SaipanLiving.com, who is considering moving to, working and/or doing business on Saipan. Our dialogue transpired over several days.

BILL: Hi Walt, thanks for the response. I read the Saipan Tribune on the Internet, especially reader comments, "opinions," "editorials," etc., as well as the local blogs. That's how I learned about you. I also know about the [very negative Saipan] website and the counter website(s) that you put up in an attempt to reverse negative opinions. I also get some news from the Guam PDN. My first impression is that things have gone downhill on Saipan.

WALT: Hi Bill. I'm going to throw some observations, stereotypes, opinions, facts and figures your way, and it will be up to you to process them to find the hidden opportunity. Saipan is going through a major transition right now. The big development on everyone's mind is the pending "federal takeover" of CNMI immigration scheduled for Nov. 28, 2009. This will affect tourism, the status of contract workers, incoming port security, visa requirements and thus the economic future of the island. The uncertainty of what exactly will happen is causing fear and flight. Many locals as well as contract workers are leaving the island. Investors are hesitant to invest if the visa regulations will adversely affect their status on island.

In a nutshell, if you're planning on doing business on Saipan, the following are seven major pieces of the puzzle right now:

1. Federal takeover of immigration
2. Increasing minimum wage
3. Loss of garment factories on island
4. Decline in tourist numbers
5. Military buildup in Guam
6. New zoning law
7. Global economic downturn

Altogether, they've resulted in business closures, changing population numbers as residents leave for perceived greener pastures, changing demographics as guest workers return to their home countries, lower sales figures, etc. Yes, this is a land in transition. Ready for the good news?

The good news is: This is a land in transition. As a result, there is opportunity for those who choose to see it.

BILL: Yes, I realize things are a bit chaotic there now by what I can garner from the Internet, message boards, etc., but I wanted to try and get some info directly from someone living there. You see, as crazy as this sounds, I was thinking of coming back out that way. I don't know if I would be able to make "a go of it" with my background, but you never know.

WALT: Despite all the elements of this perfect storm, Bill, there always seems to be new construction all over the island, the business license office here on island issues an average of 50-60 new business licenses each month. Whatever their reasons, whether they are building for a hoped-for upturn, the expected military buildup in Guam, or are acting on some other information they have, someone is investing in the future of the island!

BILL: I had thought about returning out that way, but really don't want to return to Guam (didn't care for the lack of scenery, but liked visiting Saipan back then). As it stands now, I have a small business here in [state] as a licensed mechanical contractor. That's why I was curious if a small service business could survive? I don't know how bad the business climate is right now, but I'm guessing it's pretty bad by what I read on the Internet. I know that the CNMI has "lower wages," so working there for someone is probably out of the question. Any insight on this?

WALT: No short answer here. First, even though my bias is toward encouraging entrepreneurship, you should know that not all jobs here are lower wage. Second, if you want to start a business, I would suggest initially, that:

1. if you can generate business from off island, and
2. if you can incorporate some Internet component to your business so you're not solely dependent on the local economy, and
3. if you can anticipate the "new needs" given the current situation, and pieces of the puzzle, then…

….you might be able to position yourself to ride out the storm, and be ahead of the pack when things settle and start to turn around.

BILL: [shares an anecdote about being a swindled consumer, then]...Sound like a familiar story on Saipan or elsewhere? You screw people long enough, they won't be loyal when an alternative shows up. The key to success is being the "alternative" to the screw. It's a simple formula, and it's a common story.

WALT: True. However, I suggest that if you do go to any new town with the goal of offering an alternative to something existing, that you know this:

When you study human nature, you'll find that people's behavior can often be disappointingly predictable. Sometimes, people will prefer the familiar screw to the unfamiliar alternative. This will, perhaps, be the most important awareness that may (but doesn't have to) discourage a potential entrepreneur. People with the best of initial intentions, but without the strength of character to weather the inertia that grips the majority of a given population, end up throwing up their hands, joining in step with the masses, and accepting the familiar screw, feeling powerless to do anything about it. You must stay strong and persevere.

BILL: [Your SaipanLiving.com site] brought back memories of Guam (from the early '90s) in that I had a friend [there]…[who] made a video (actually he bought the footage from a local diver and had him sign a release and bill of sale) and created a Guam Underwater Video that he sold at various tourism shops on Guam as a side gig. He explained how he did it, which then gave me an idea. I ended up shooting a video about the WWII sites in Guam with a Sony Hi-8 video camera I purchased. I sold my video through the VFW magazine (Veterans Of Foreign Wars). I knew that most of the veterans were…..too old to return for the Liberation Anniversary (remember, this was the early '90s), so a video was the next best thing to being back in Guam. I ended up with orders from veterans who had been stationed in Guam over the years, and they just wanted to see a little something of the island again.

So, here's an idea for you! Not sure if it's still viable, but hey, why wouldn't it be? I wanted to increase my sales, so I went after a little known market. Almost all libraries in the U.S. buy videos (DVDs nowadays), so I made a direct mail letter to each one offering my video of those WWII sites in Guam. I even raised the price beyond what you would reasonably expect to pay ($29.95 if I remember correctly), and they still ordered it! They (the libraries) have a yearly budget that allows them to purchase a set amount of audio books, DVDs, etc., no matter what—and it needs to be spent before the end of the fiscal year. There are quite a few libraries out there and with the Internet it's pretty easy to contact them nowadays. I think the novelty of ordering something from Guam back then added to the "interest" in the product. You would be surprised how many people in the mainland know nothing or very little about Guam or Saipan, for that matter, too. I hate to admit it, but the video wasn't all that good (low tech back then). But, it did sell!

WALT: Cool. Thanks for that, Bill. I'll share the idea with my readers! And, no, I wouldn't be surprised how few people know about Saipan! (smile!)

BILL: Anyway, emailing you is starting to revive a spark which I thought I had lost. Life becomes more bearable when your imagination leads the way. Best reading—and I hope you will keep this going with me.

WALT: My pleasure, Bill! I have a new book titled Doing Business on Saipan which is nearing completion (See bookstore on the www.saipanliving.com website). In it, I'll go into much more detail about the 7 Factors affecting Saipan, and where to find the opportunities here. I'll let you know when it's released! Keep the spark alive!

■ ■ ■

ANNOUNCEMENT! The Saipan Writers Passion to Profit Workshop will take place on Sunday, Sept. 27, from 1pm to 4pm at the Northern Marianas Trades Institute in Lower Base. $7 admission. Join the "Culture Corner & Workshop" list at www.saipantext.com to be notified by text message a few days before, and then the morning of the event! E-mail me for details.

Note: Fans and followers of the book, Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Garment Factory Girl on Saipan may now request copies here on Saipan by emailing me walt@passionprofit.com, or Amazon.com.

Note: Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that said good things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to www.bestofsaipan.com!

■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 15 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com.

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

AMERICA

From Page 10

both/and proposition, his notable practice will not be featured in the current debate. As an immigrant, a good number of otherwise sensible Americans will look down on him, even as muckraking partisans have called Obama a liar even in the halls of Congress, and ultraconservative groupies in town hall meetings continue to dub the proponents of health care reform as a socialists, communists, masked Muslims and, heaven help us, Washington insiders beholden to leftist lobbyists!

To his credit, Obama is acting more presidential now rather than appearing to be a smooth talking pro with political savvy. A die-hard Republican old lady who sat with me on the Coast Starlight from L.A. to Los Robles (pronounced Rubles by the locals) on my way to San Francisco, decided that less government is best, but that at critical moments, it is well to expect the federal government to take the lead in supporting majority rule and protecting minority rights. She didn't think it was the business of government to dictate to a girl what she should do with her body after a coerced or forced pregnancy. Nor should she be denied the right to choose. For once, a level-headed and fair-hearted Republican!

The War on Terror is also the War of Horror in America, and whether the task is silencing the guns of the Afghans, or promoting the cause of world peace began at Fairmount Hotel in San Francisco more than 60 years ago, or vying for influence on the soul of America, the tactic has come to painting the most terrifying and horrifying scenario to grab people's attention and support. There are no clear winners in these struggles. There are only survivors. And the survivors will be spiritually handicapped the rest of their lives.

We journey to journey on, and America by rails is rich fodder for reflections, indeed.

Letter to the Editor

Three suggestions

The comment of David M. Sablan on reinventing the CNMI is right on target with respect to shifting gears in the direction the CNMI should be heading. We understand the difficult economic climate we are in but there are certain paths we should be taking.

First, we should look at our tax system and honestly ask ourselves if this system is conducive to doing business in the CNMI. We have to revisit the excise tax system and ask why Guam does not have the same system. We have to look at incentives to attract investment in the transportation sector because this is one area that is certainly the key to economic development.

Second, we should look at transportation. A 20-ft container is within the $2,000 range freight cost from the U.S. mainland to Guam or Saipan. However, same 20-ft container cost over $4,000 for inter-island freight from Guam to Rota. A 25-minute ride between Rota to Guam and Rota to Saipan is a bit over $200 round trip. A three-hour flight from Guam to the Philippines sometime comes close to that amount during low season that is thousands of miles away.

Third, we should have a change of attitude. Throw away the crab mentality and support what works instead of destroying it. A good idea or project of one administration should be continued and completed by the next. We have to work for each other, not against one another.

Frank M. Atalig
Sinapalo, Rota

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy and windy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southwest winds 25 to 30 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Southwest winds 20 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Windy	▲84	▼77
Palau	Rain	▲87	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲87	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲88	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼79

Around The Globe

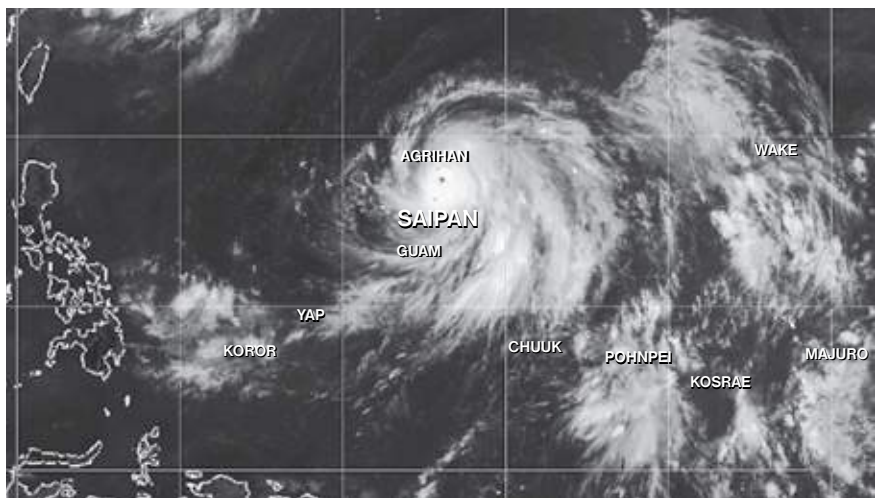
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲60	▼49
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲82	▼62
Hong Kong	Showers	▲90	▼81
Honolulu	Sunny	▲87	▼76
London	Showers	▲66	▼52
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲82	▼62
Manila	Rain	▲90	▼77
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲74	▼55
Miami	Thundershowers	▲91	▼78
New York	Rain	▲69	▼58
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲80	▼62
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲67	▼56
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲83	▼64
Rome	Thunderstorms	▲79	▼65
Salem	Cloudy	▲78	▼53
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲73	▼58
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲81	▼59
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲78	▼64
Washington, DC	Rain	▲77	▼64

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:19 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
11:34 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
6:27 PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Choi-wan (15W) is centered north-northeast of Saipan near 17N146E. Numerous showers and scattered thunderstorms are found within an area bounded by a line from 15N144E to 20N151E to 20N144E back to 15N144E. Lines of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms converging into Choi-wan are found over Yap and Koror and south through east of Choi-wan within an area bounded by a line from 5N130E to 10N154E to 20N154E to 20N151E to 15N144E to 11N140E to 10N130E back to 5N130E. For more detailed information on Choi-wan, see JTWC bulletins issued under WMO header WTPN21 PGTW and NWS Guam bulletins issued under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. Convergent trade winds east of Typhoon Choi-wan are causing extensive cloudiness. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Wake Island within 200 miles of a line from 24N159E to 10N169E. Converging southwest winds are triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Pohnpei within an area bounded by a line from 10N158E to 4N155E to 1N161E back to 10N158E. A trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers over the Marshall Islands between the equator and 8N from 168E to 173E. Another trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers and few thunderstorms well to the east of the Marshall Islands or east of a line from 10N175E to 3N175E to EQ179E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:06 AM	6:18 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:17 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:17 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:16 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:15 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:14 AM	4:14 PM
Thursday	4:15 AM	4:59 PM
Friday	5:13 AM	5:42 PM
Saturday	6:11 AM	6:24 PM
Sunday	7:07 AM	7:07 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:50am	12:25pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:20am	5:10am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
C09603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

C0941	5:30am	8:05am	Daily
NW99	6:05am	8:40am	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25pm	Daily
C0943	5:25pm	8:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1, 3, 4, 6

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1, 3, 4, 6 via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:30pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:15am	3:50am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:10am	2:40am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598	2:10am	3:50am	5, 6 via ROP
C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:20am	11:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

C0942	9:25am	1:55pm	Daily
NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:35pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily
C0944	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	4, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:50pm	2:30pm+1	3, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	4, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business

Obama warns Wall Street not to block tighter regs

NEW YORK (AP)—Lecturing Wall Street on its own turf, President Barack Obama warned financial leaders not to use the recovering economy to race back into "reckless behavior" that could cause a new meltdown. He declared that a bailout-weary public will not break their fall again.

Obama insisted Monday that there is an urgent need for tighter financial regulation, and he cautioned his audience not to try to block it. He spoke on the first anniversary of the collapse of the Lehman Brothers investment bank, the largest bankruptcy in U.S. history and a stark reminder of the financial crisis that spread into a deep recession despite huge federal bailouts of major companies.

"It is neither right nor responsible after you've recovered with the help of your government to shirk your obligation to the goal of wider recovery, a more stable system, and a more broadly shared prosperity," Obama said in a stern bid to boost his regulation proposals.

AP

London Mayor Boris Johnson, right, chats with specialist James Denaro on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange before ringing the closing bell, Monday, Sept. 14, 2009.

The president's speech reflected public sentiment that taxpayers were immeasurably harmed from last year's financial collapse—and that, barring change, it could happen again. As investment giants return to profit, millions of Americans are still coping with unemployment, home foreclosures and retirement portfolios that got washed away in the storm.

For symbolic emphasis, Obama spoke from venerable Federal Hall on Wall Street.

"Unfortunately, there are some in the financial industry who are misreading this moment," Obama told a quiet audience of leaders from the investment sector.

US-China tire spat unlikely to trigger trade war

WASHINGTON (AP)—China's complaint Monday over new U.S. tariffs on Chinese tires raised pressure on Washington but isn't likely to incite a full-blown trade war. Each side knows its economy has too much to lose.

The United States, the world's largest economy, represents a huge market for Chinese exports. And China is the largest holder of U.S. government debt at a time when the federal deficit has swollen to record levels because of economic rescue measures.

China quickly took its case to the World Trade Organization after President Barack Obama ordered steep additional U.S. tariffs on Chinese tires for three years, including 35 percent in the first year. The increases come on top of the current 4 percent tariff.

For China, barriers on its exports to the U.S. mean job losses at home. Still, private economists say they expect both sides to avoid a conflict that would harm producers in each country.

"The big message from China to the United States is think twice, think three times before repeating this kind of relief for a U.S. industry because if you do this again, we are going to hit you again," said Gary Hufbauer, a trade expert at the Peterson Institute, a Washington think tank.

In a speech Monday in New York, Obama defended his decision to impose the tire tariffs. Chinese imports represented almost 17 percent of the U.S. tire market last year and have been blamed for the loss of thousands of American jobs.

The White House said Obama acted under a provision in the U.S.-Chinese agreement on Beijing's accession to the WTO that lets Washington slow the rise of Chinese imports to give time to American industry to adjust.

In response, Beijing filed a complaint with the WTO, opening a 60-day window for the two sides to try to resolve the dispute through negotiations. If that fails, China can ask for a WTO panel to investigate and rule on the case, which would take months.

In the meantime, the conflict is a potential irritant as Washington and Beijing prepare for a summit of the Group of 20 leading economies in Pittsburgh on Sept. 24-25 to discuss efforts to end the worst global downturn since the 1930s.

Bailed-out companies detail new expense policies

WASHINGTON (AP)—Companies that received billions of dollars of government aid have published policies meant to limit lavish expenses, new rules that follow reports of costly private jets, spa retreats and other corporate excess at firms receiving taxpayer money.

The Treasury Department required financial institutions and automakers that received money from the $700 billion Troubled Asset Relief Program to post their new polices covering "excessive or luxury expenditures" on their corporate Web sites. The policies posted Monday ranged from blanket statements of proper spending practices by company employees, to how much to tip a hotel doorman while traveling.

The list includes companies that took some of the largest chunks of government aid—including insurer American International Group Inc., Citigroup Inc., Bank of America Corp., General Motors Co. and Chrysler LLC.

The policies, which generally require greater scrutiny by top executives and corporate boards of major expenses, are part of a broad swath of government standards at bailed-out companies designed to help them stay afloat during the financial crisis. That includes an ongoing Treasury review of the pay packages for executives at major TARP recipients.

Lawmakers and the public have blasted some spending and perks at companies that were given government lifelines, including a posh California retreat for executives of AIG last fall and the decision last year by top automakers' officials to fly corporate jets to Washington while asking for billions in bailouts.

Fed's steps to aid bank system raise risks too

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Federal Reserve's bold steps to prevent the banking industry from collapsing last year have injected new dangers into the financial system.

Analysts and government officials fear that the nation's biggest banks will be emboldened to resume excessive risk-taking on the belief that the Fed will be there—again—to prevent them from collapsing. They also worry that the Fed's unilateral actions during last year's crisis could come back to haunt it—by jeopardizing its political independence. The Fed's freedom from politics is critical to its ability to do what's right for the long-term health of the economy, even if that means taking action that causes short-term pain, such as raising interest rates. The legacy of the Great Recession is that the Fed will be more likely to intervene quickly during crises, but also more active in preventing them in the first place.

This has consequences for businesses and consumers. To head off another speculative bubble, for example, the Fed could choose to quickly push up interest rates, resulting in higher borrowing costs for businesses and more expensive loans for consumers to buy houses and cars.

To fight the recession and financial crisis, Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke unleashed some of the most aggressive actions in the history of the central bank, which was created in 1913 after a series of bank panics.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Judge rejects SEC-BofA deal; Cuomo preps charges

NEW YORK (AP)—A federal judge on Monday rejected a $33 million settlement between the Securities and Exchange Commission and Bank of America Corp., saying the SEC's accusations of inadequate disclosure by the bank over bonuses paid at Merrill Lynch must now go to trial. Separately, New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo's office is preparing to file charges within the next couple of weeks against several high-ranking executives at Bank of America, claiming they failed to disclose details about the bank's acquisition of Merrill Lynch, according to a person familiar with the investigation. The ruling in the SEC case comes one month after the agency and Bank of America thought they had put a thorny issue behind them, and leaves the SEC with the task of mounting a case against BofA over one of the most sensitive issues of the financial crisis—executive pay on Wall Street.

Utilities help pull stocks higher after early fall

NEW YORK (AP)—Stocks bounced back from early losses to post moderate gains as traders funneled money into utility and financial companies. Major market indexes ended at their highest levels in nearly a year. Stocks slid at the open following a drop in overseas markets on worries that a trade war would erupt between the U.S. and China. But the market recovered from the early dip that sent the Dow Jones industrial average down 69 points as investors seized on the opportunity to inject new money into shares. The Dow ended with a gain of 21 points.

Lilly to cut 14 pct of staff, trim $1B in costs

Seeking to cut costs and bring new drugs to market more quickly as its best-sellers go off-patent, drugmaker Eli Lilly & Co. said Monday it will eliminate 5,500 jobs over two years and reorganize into five business units. The Indianapolis company said it will reduce its work force by nearly 14 percent, to 35,000 from the current 40,500, by the end of 2011. The new total excludes hirings in high-growth emerging markets and Japan. Lilly hopes to cut annual costs by $1 billion per year over the same time, and will organize itself into the following units: cancer, diabetes, established markets, emerging markets, and Elanco, its animal health business.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA	4,538.60 Up 2.50 (0.06%)
HONG KONG	20,932.20 Up 0.00 (0.00%)
JAKARTA	2,409.12 Up 26.42 (1.11%)
TOKYO	10,219.86 Up 17.80 (0.17%)
K. LUMPUR	1,176.90 Up 4.34 (0.37%)
MANILA	2,789.36 Down 32.37 (-1.15%)
SINGAPORE	2,652.63 Up 12.89 (0.49%)
SEOUL	1,651.85 Up 16.94 (1.04%)
BANGKOK	699.24 Up 4.92 (0.71%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	9,626.80 21.39
NASDAQ	2,091.78 10.88
S&P	1,049.34 0.00

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.1604
British Pound	0.6011
Canadian Dollar	1.0819
Chinese Renminbi	6.8290
Euro	0.6838
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7502
Indian Rupee	48.5750
Indonesian Rupiah	9,917.5450
Japanese Yen	91.1200
Malaysian Ringgit	3.5030
New Zealand Dollar	1.4244
Philippine Peso	48.3420
Singapore Dollar	1.4221
South Korean Won	1,218.9500
Swiss Franc	1.0350
Taiwan Dollar	32.6350
Thailand Baht	33.9150

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Nation

Clues point to inside job in Yale killing

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP)—Clues increasingly pointed to an inside job Monday in the slaying of a Yale graduate student whose body was found stuffed inside a wall five days after she vanished from a heavily secured lab building accessible only to university employees.

Police on Monday sought to calm fears on the Ivy League campus, saying the death of 24-year-old Annie Le was a targeted act but would not say why anyone would want to kill the young woman just days before she was to be married.

"We're not believing it's a random act," said officer Joe Avery, a police spokesman. No one else is in danger, he said, though he would not provide details other than to say that police believe no other students were involved. He also denied broadcast reports that police had a suspect in custody.

Yale officials said the building where Le worked would reopen under increased security. Still, some students worried about their safety.

"I'm not walking at nights by myself anymore," said student Natoya Peart, 21, of Jamaica. "It could happen to anyone, anytime, anywhere."

Michael Vishnevetsky, 21, of New York, said he did not feel safe when he made a late trip to his lab Sunday in a different building. "It felt very different than how I usually felt," he said.

AP

Yale University Chaplain Sharon Kugler, right, consoles student Natalie Powers while University President Richard C. Levin, left, looks on during a moment of silence at the candlelight vigil in New Haven, Conn., Monday, Sept 14, 2009.

Twenty-year-old Muneeb Sultan said he's shocked that a killing could take place in a secure Yale building.

"It's a frightening idea that there's a murderer walking around on campus," said Sultan, a chemistry student.

Police found Le's body about 5 p.m. Sunday, the day she was to marry Columbia University graduate student Jonathan Widawsky, lovingly referred to on her Facebook page as "my best friend." The couple met as undergraduates at the University of Rochester and were eagerly awaiting their planned wedding on Long Island.

Police have said Widawsky is not a suspect and helped detectives in their investigation.

The building where the body was found is part of the university medical school complex about a mile from Yale's main campus. It is accessible to Yale personnel with identification cards. Some 75 video surveillance cameras monitor all doorways.

The body was found in the basement in the wall chase—a deep recess where utilities and cables run between floors. The basement houses rodents, mostly mice, used for scientific testing by multiple Yale researchers, said Robert Alpern, dean of the Yale University School of Medicine.

Senate negotiators narrow health care differences

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senate health care negotiators said Monday they've narrowed their differences on a host of difficult issues with just a day or so left to seal an elusive bipartisan deal that could change the course of the contentious debate.

After months of closed-door negotiations, Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus said, "We're getting very close." But it remained unclear if the Montana Democrat could strike a bargain that would mark a turning point for President Barack Obama's top domestic priority.

The negotiators pared the cost of their 10-year coverage plan to under $880 billion, and also reported progress on several issues, including health insurance for the poor, restrictions on federal funding for abortions, a verification system to prevent illegal immigrants from getting benefits, and ways to encourage alternatives to malpractice lawsuits.

With or without Republican support, Baucus said he'll have a formal proposal on Wednesday to meet a deadline for moving ahead.

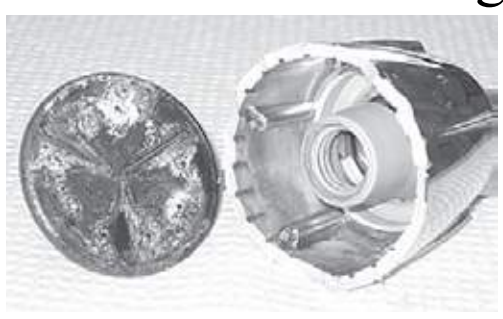
At the same time, he said the bipartisan talks could continue even as his Finance panel begins its formal bill-drafting session next week. The negotiators will meet again Tuesday.

"It's not just tomorrow or the next day," said Baucus. "We're going to keep working."

Showerheads may harbor bacteria dangerous to some

WASHINGTON (AP)—In what may be the scariest shower news since Alfred Hitchcock's "Psycho," a study says showerheads can harbor tiny bacteria that come spraying into your face when you wash. People with normal immune systems have little to fear, but these microbes could be a concern for folks with cystic fibrosis or AIDS, people who are undergoing cancer treatment or those who have had a recent organ transplant.

Researchers at the University of Colorado tested 45 showers in five states as part of a larger study of the microbiology of air and water in homes, schools and public buildings. They report their shower findings in Tuesday's edition of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.



This undated handout photo provided by the University of Colorado shows visible microbial growth on a showerhead, with the colored growth seen on the white inner surfaces.

AP

In general, is it dangerous to take showers? "Probably not, if your immune system is not compromised in some way," lead author Norman R. Pace says. "But it's like anything else—there is a risk associated with it."

The researchers offer suggestions for the wary, such as getting all-metal showerheads, which microbes have a harder time clinging to.

Still, showerheads are full of nooks and crannies, making them hard to clean, the researchers note, and the microbes come back even after treatment with bleach.

3 New York residences raided in terrorism probe

WASHINGTON (AP)—FBI agents and police raided three apartments in New York City before dawn Monday during an investigation of a man suspected of being an al-Qaida associate. The searches came after the man, who was under surveillance for possible links to the terror network, visited New York City over the weekend and left the area, Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., said after receiving a briefing on the operation from federal law enforcement officials Monday.

Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., who also was briefed Monday, said a terrorist attack was not believed to be imminent. He added that the law enforcement action was unrelated to President Barack Obama's visit to the city Monday.

New York Police Department spokesman Paul Browne confirmed that searches were conducted in the borough of Queens by agents of a joint terrorism task force.

Residents on Monday described officers armed with search warrants swarming their immigrant neighborhood at about 2:30 a.m. One, Afghanistan native Akbari Amanullah, said when he arrived home from work afterward, he was told that one of his roommates had been hauled away.

No arrests were announced. Neither the FBI nor the NYPD would discuss the whereabouts of the al-Qaida suspect or whether anyone was being held for questioning in New York.

A White House spokesman said Obama, who spoke on Wall Street on Monday, had been briefed on the investigation.

Two U.S. intelligence officials, who requested anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the case publicly, said the target of any purported attack—or who would carry it out—remained unclear.

ACROSS THE NATION

Former Carter press secretary Jody Powell dies

WASHINGTON (AP)—Jody Powell, who was White House press secretary and among the closest and most trusted advisers to President Jimmy Carter, died Monday of a heart attack. He was 65.

Powell, a member of the so-called Georgia Mafia that descended on Washington after Carter was elected president, was stricken at his home near Cambridge on Maryland's eastern shore, said Jack Nelson, a retired reporter and close friend of Powell.

Nelson said Powell had been working with firewood with a helper who briefly stepped away. Powell was discovered a short time later on the ground. Powell was said to have had a previous heart attack, but that it was some time ago in the early or mid-1990s.

ACORN staff taped with woman posing as prostitute

NEW YORK (AP)—Two employees of the advocacy group ACORN are shown on a hidden-camera video released Monday, apparently advising a couple posing as a prostitute and her pimp to lie about her profession and launder her earnings. The video was the latest in a series that has already led to the firing of four ACORN employees in Baltimore and Washington, D.C. It was created by James O'Keefe and Hannah Giles and posted on BigGovernment.com, where O'Keefe identifies himself as an activist filmmaker. ACORN spokesman Scott Levenson blasted the video shot at the organization's Brooklyn office, saying the group believes the voices of the couple were dubbed over to alter the conversation and make the interaction appear more objectionable than it may have been.

Ala. boy fakes kidnapping to hide bad grades

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (AP)—An 11-year-old boy gets high marks in storytelling after staging a hoax to cover up his bad grades. Police said the boy faked his kidnapping Friday to avoid bringing home a bad report card, saying that a man with a pistol snatched him after he left Ed White Middle School. The boy said the man forced him into a "beat-up car" and threatened to kill him. The student said he escaped by jumping out of the car but wasn't able to grab his bookbag, which contained the report card. He ran to his grandparents' house and later confessed to lying. His grandfather called police to apologize. Sgt. Mark Roberts said police were suspicious that the boy was able to "escape" with his band instrument, but not his bookbag.

Asia

Missile kills 4 in Pakistan; 18 die in stampede

MIR ALI, Pakistan (AP)—A missile fired from a suspected unmanned U.S. drone slammed into a car in a Pakistani tribal region close to the Afghan border Monday, killing four people, intelligence officials and residents said.

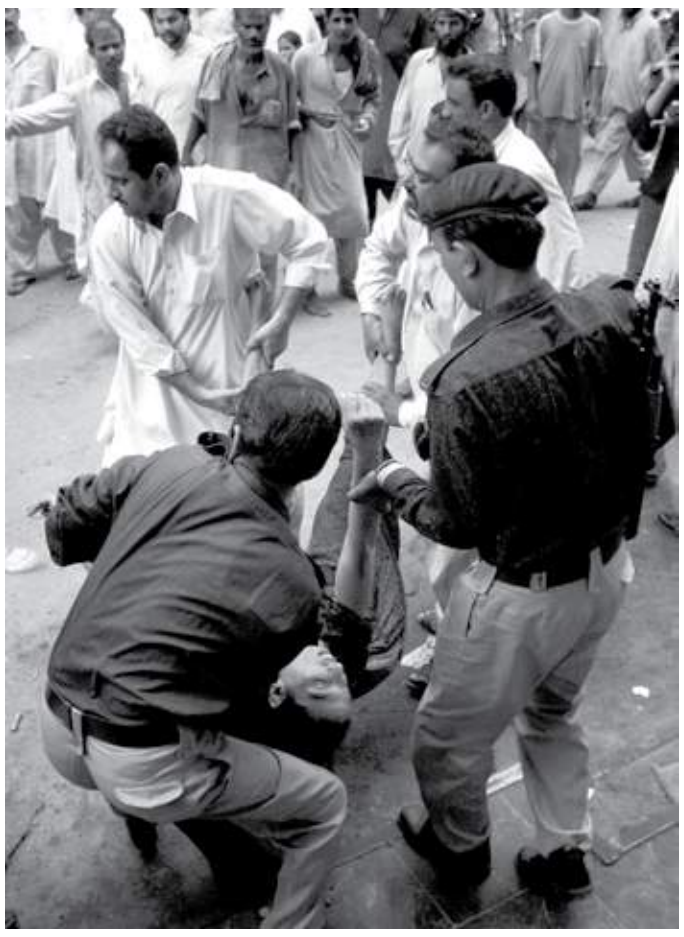
The apparent American missile strike was the latest of more than 50 in the northwest region since last year aimed at killing top al-Qaida and Taliban leaders. Last month, the head of the Pakistani Taliban was killed in one such strike.

Monday's attack took place about 1.5 miles (3 kilometers) from the town of Mir Ali in North Waziristan, killing four people, two officials and witnesses said. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity, saying they need to remain unnamed to do their job effectively.

The identities of the victims were not known.

Witnesses Ikramullah Khan and Mohammad Salim said the missile hit a vehicle with blacked-out windows—a style associated with Taliban fighters in the region.

Pakistan protests the U.S. missile strikes as violations of its sovereignty and says they fan support for the insurgents, but Washington has shown no sign of abandoning a tactic that it says has killed several ranking militants and disrupted their operations.



AP

Pakistani police officers, front are assisted by bystanders as they carry a victim of a stampede in Karachi, Pakistan on Monday Sept. 14, 2009.

Islamist militants with roots in the border region launch near-daily attacks on Pakistan's U.S.-backed government and security forces. The mountainous, lawless area is also used as a safe haven from which to stage attacks on foreign forces in Afghanistan.

Under pressure from the West, Pakistan in May launched an offensive in the northwestern Swat Valley, which had fallen largely under Taliban control. It claims to have cleared most of Swat of the militants and killed more than 1,800 of them, although sporadic militant attacks continue.

The army announced the capture last week of five top Swat Taliban commanders, and Interior Minister Rehman Malik said Sunday authorities were now closing in on Swat Taliban chief Maulana Fazlullah.

"Fazlullah is surrounded, and he cannot escape us," Malik told reporters in Islamabad.

Pakistan's army said Monday to have killed 16 suspected militants in its latest operations in Swat and neighboring Dir district. One soldier died and another was wounded, an army statement covering the previous 24-hour period added.

Military officials also said 159 alleged militants had surrendered to security forces Monday. They include six boys recruited by the Taliban to be suicide bombers, Col. Amir Khan told reporters in Piochar, a main insurgent base in Swat.

In recent weeks, the army has reported an increasing flow of insurgents voluntarily surrendering.

The information provided by the military could not be independently confirmed because of limited access to the region.

Separately, at least 18 women and girls waiting to get free flour in Pakistan's southern city of Karachi died when the crowd around them swelled and a stampede occurred, officials said.

Indonesia's Aceh to approve stoning death for adulterers

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia (AP)—Lawmakers in a devoutly Muslim Indonesian province voted unanimously that adulterers can be sentenced to death by stoning, just months after voters overwhelmingly chose to throw conservative Islamic parties out of power.

With only weeks to go before a new government led by a moderate party takes over in Aceh province, hard-liners still in control of the regional parliament pushed through legislation Monday to impose steep punishments for adultery and homosexuality.

The chairman of the 69-seat house asked if the bill could be passed into law and members answered in unison: "Yes, it can." Some members of the moderate Democrat Party, which will lead the incoming government, voiced reservations, but none of them voted against the bill.

Human rights groups said the law violates international treaties signed by Indonesia. The province's deputy governor also opposed the legislation, saying it needed more careful consideration because it imposes a new form of capital punishment.

The Aceh Party is also believed to have a less strict interpretation of Islamic law, or Shariah, and some activists expressed hope that once in power, they would amend or tone down the law. Others were considering contesting the bill in court in the capital, Jakarta.

Aceh, where Islam first arrived in Indonesia from Saudi Arabia centuries ago, enjoys semiautonomy from the central government. A long-running Islamic insurgency in the province ended in 2005 in the wake of the Indian Ocean tsunami that killed 130,000 there.

A version of Shariah that was introduced in Aceh in 2001 already bans gambling and drinking alcohol, and makes it compulsory for women to wear headscarves. Dozens of public canings have been carried out by the local Shariah police against violators of that law.

The majority of Indonesia's nearly 200 million Muslims practice a moderate form of the faith, and surveys suggest they do not support such hardline interpretations of the Quran, the Muslim holy book.

Stoning is legally sanctioned in varying forms in Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and parts of Nigeria. Illegal stonings have also been reported in recent years in Iraq and Somalia. But its use is a point of contention among Islamic scholars.

The new Indonesian law also imposes tough sentences and fines, to be paid in kilograms of gold, for rape and pedophilia, but the most hotly disputed article was on adultery and states that offenders can be punished by a minimum of 100 lashings and a maximum of stoning to death.

Afghans question what democracy has done for them

KABUL (AP)—Mubaruz Khan didn't bother to vote when Afghans went to the polls in the country's second-ever democratic election last month. He was too busy eking out a living selling cigarettes and soda for $3 a day, and didn't think voting would make a difference in his life.

Millions like Khan stayed home on Aug. 20, a sharp contrast to 2004, when Afghans jammed polling stations to give President Hamid Karzai his first term. Ominous warnings from the Taliban suppressed turnout, but some Afghans said they were also discouraged by the government's failure to halt endemic corruption, spiraling unemployment and crumbling security.

"We want peace. We want security. We want job opportunities," the 55-year-old Khan said Monday. "Otherwise, the democracy and the elections that they are all shouting about every day mean nothing to us."

Nearly a month after Afghanistan voted, the election's messy aftermath has exposed the difficulties of installing a Western-style democracy in a land that has never seen one—and raised questions over whether an electoral system can take root eight years after the U.S.-led invasion that ended Taliban's radical Islamist rule.

The country's election commission originally hoped to declare a certified winner this week, but claims of ballot-stuffing and phantom voters have pushed that timeline back weeks, if not months, leaving the country in political limbo at a time the Taliban is unleashing a record number of attacks. Thousands of fake ballots were submitted across the country, and many returns showed Karzai winning 100 percent of the vote in some districts.

The latest partial count has Karzai leading with 54 percent to leading challenger Abdullah Abdullah's 28 percent, and a full count was expected later this week. If enough votes are eliminated for fraud complaints, Karzai's tally could fall below the 50-percent threshold, forcing a two-man runoff.

China VP set to get military post in a step to top

BEIJING (AP)—China's communist elite are expected to name the country's vice president to a powerful military commission this week in a move that would cement his status as heir to the presidency of the ascendant power.

If the Central Committee ignores precedent and doesn't name Xi Jinping to the Communist Party's military commission at a meeting that opens Tuesday, it could signal discord among the leadership over who will succeed President Hu Jintao in 2012.

But the consensus among China-watchers ahead of the closed-door gathering seems to be that Xi, who became heir-apparent when he was appointed to the Politburo Standing Committee two years ago, has avoided any missteps that would derail his elevation.

"I have no reason to believe Xi has made any major mistake," said Steve Tsang, a China expert at Oxford University. "As long as he does not do so, he will take over from Hu in 2012."

Xi

The annual meeting of the 204-member Central Committee comes at a fraught time for the leadership. The party is ramping up preparations for the 60th anniversary of communist rule on Oct. 1, and it wants the celebrations, which include a military parade through Beijing's Tiananmen Square, to showcase its rising power.

But recent ethnic unrest in the country's west, violent strikes in steel factories and mass protests in other cities have made Hu's call for a "harmonious society" ring hollow. The economic growth the leadership has depended on to ease social tensions remains tentative as key export markets in the U.S. and Europe are still struggling.

The 56-year-old Xi already holds two of the three posts Hu held as heir-apparent—the Politburo portfolio handling party affairs and the vice presidency. Hu added the vice chairmanship of the Central Military Commission three years before his anointment as party leader.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Malaysian judge orders man to jail for drinking

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—A judge has ordered a Muslim man to be caned and jailed for drinking alcohol, two months after triggering a national debate for sentencing a woman to be whipped for a similar offense. Islamic High Court judge Abdul Rahman Yunos in eastern Pahang state ordered the Indonesian worker Monday to serve a year in jail and be whipped six times, a court official said Tuesday. She declined to be identified citing protocol. She said Nazarudin Kamaruddin pleaded guilty earlier this month to drinking liquor at a restaurant on Aug. 27. Unable to post bail, he has been in prison since being charged on Sept. 2, she said. He faced a maximum of three years in jail for the offense.

Conservationists say 70 dolphins in Japan released

TOKYO (AP)—A Japanese fishing town that holds a well-known annual hunt to kill and sell dolphins for meat has released 70 of the animals from its first catch of the season following an international outcry, a conservationist group said Tuesday. The outcry has been growing against the hunt in Taiji, western Japan, since an award-winning American documentary "The Cove" this year showed dolphins being herded into an inlet and killed by fishermen with spears. The Save Japan Dolphins Coalition, led by Ric O'Barry, the dolphin trainer for the 1960s "Flipper" TV series, said Tuesday that group representatives witnessed and filmed 70 bottlenose dolphins—the same kind as Flipper—being released Sunday.

Gay Chinese stand up to police sweep of hangout

GUANGZHOU, China (AP)—When the police descend on People's Park and shoo away the gay men gathered there, the men usually scatter to avoid trouble. But recently, about 50 or so confronted five officers who began a sweep and finally forced a police retreat after a heated but nonviolent standoff. "I told them they might not like us, but they can't stop us from coming here," said AIDS activist Xiao Mu, who was handing out condoms and pamphlets about safe sex when the police arrived on Aug. 25. "We have a right to be in the park." Though mostly ignored by state-run media, news of the incident in the southern city of Guangzhou—also known as Canton—spread quickly on the Internet and became a hot topic in gay chat forums nationwide. Some in China's gay community see it as a sign of a new sense of empowerment and a burgeoning awareness of their rights.

World

Bin Laden prods US to end 'hopeless' Afghan war

CAIRO (AP)—Osama bin Laden said in a new audiotape that President Barack Obama's strategy in Afghanistan is "hopeless" and called on Americans to resolve the conflict with al-Qaida by ending the war there and breaking the U.S. alliance with Israel.

In the message marking the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, the al-Qaida leader avoided his usual rhetoric of jihad and instead took a more analytical tone, claiming its differences with the U.S. stemmed from the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

But analysts said Monday that the message's tone and its unusually short length—only 11 minutes, far shorter than others released by al-Qaida to mark the anniversary—was an indication that al-Qaida was struggling to maintain interest eight years after its most shattering terror attacks.

"You might interpret this as a sign of weakness, the suggestion being that they don't really want to fight the U.S.," Jeremy Binnie, an analyst with Jane's Terrorism and Insurgency Center, said of bin Laden's tone.

Arabs and Muslims' more positive feelings toward the new U.S. president are believed to have helped deflate al-Qaida's anti-American rhetoric, which found a receptive audience during the administration of former President George W. Bush, who was widely resented in the region. Also, the Iraq war—once a main front for al-Qaida's militants—has become less prominent as violence eased over the past two years and the presence of U.S. troops was reduced.

AP

An image made from video, provided by IntelCenter Monday Sept.. 14, 2009, shows a frame from the video released by Al-Qaida showing a still image of Osama bin Laden.

The main front now is Afghanistan, where the Obama administration is contemplating sending more troops to battle al-Qaida's ally, the Taliban. Gen. Stanley McChrystal, commander of U.S. and NATO forces said Friday he sees no signs of a major al-Qaida presence in the country.

Netanyahu: No complete West Bank building freeze

JERUSALEM (AP)—Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday rejected U.S. calls to freeze all settlement construction in the West Bank and east Jerusalem, angering Palestinians and putting a New York summit in question.

Netanyahu's announcement came on the eve of a crucial meeting with President Barack Obama's Mideast envoy, George Mitchell, who is trying to arrange an Israeli-Palestinian summit on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly session next week.

In a statement late Monday, Netanyahu's office said no meeting to restart peace talks has been set but that he would move up his departure to New York, set for a week from Wednesday, if that were necessary to enable one to take place.

A tough line from both Israel and the Palestinians, combined with a Saudi refusal to make new conciliatory gestures to the Jewish state, could further complicate U.S. efforts to forge a comprehensive regional peace.

Seeking to jump-start peace efforts, Mitchell has been pressing Israel to halt its construction of homes in the West Bank and east Jerusalem.

The Palestinians claim both areas, captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war, and say the settlements make it increasingly difficult for them to realize their goal of establishing an independent state.

Netanyahu told parliament's powerful foreign affairs and defense committee on Monday that Israel would consider suspending new plans to build in the West Bank for a limited time only, according to a meeting participant.

Netanyahu said Israel will continue to build some 3,000 apartments already begun, trying to strike a balance between Israel's desire to resume talks with the Palestinians while also enabling "normal life" to continue in the settlements.

He also said Israel would continue to build without restrictions in east Jerusalem, which Israel considers part of its capital.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the meeting was closed.

4 UK Muslims get hefty sentences for airline plot

LONDON (AP)—In a case that altered airport security worldwide, three British Muslims were imprisoned Monday for at least 30 years each for a plot to kill thousands by blowing up trans-Atlantic airliners with liquid explosives hidden in soda bottles.

The judge described the foiled suicide bombings—meant to rival the Sept. 11 attacks—as "a grave and wicked" conspiracy, likely the most serious terrorist case ever dealt with by a British court. The plot's disclosure prompted an immediate ban on taking some liquids onboard passenger jets, a measure that remains in place, inconveniencing passengers throughout the world.

Abdulla Ahmed Ali—the plot's ringleader—was given a minimum of 40 years in prison, one of the longest sentences ever handed out by a British court. Assad Sarwar, 29, and Tanvir Hussain, 28, were imprisoned for a minimum of 36 years and 32 years respectively at London's high security Woolwich Crown Court.

"The intention was to perpetrate a terrorist outrage that would stand alongside the events of Sept. 11, 2001," Judge Richard Henriques said, referring to attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania.

Henriques said the three men were the key figures in a plan to assemble and detonate liquid explosive bombs on aircraft bound for the United States and Canada in 2006. The explosives were to be stored in bottles that once carried Lucozade or Oasis sodas, with food dye added to make the mixtures resemble the original drinks.

Authorities estimate that, if successful, about 2,000 passengers would have died—and if the bombs had been detonated over U.S. and Canadian cities, hundreds more would have been killed on the ground. Prosecutors said the suspects had targeted seven flights from London's Heathrow airport to New York, Washington, San Francisco, Toronto, Montreal and two to Chicago.

Eastern Europe not feeling the love from Obama

By WILLIAM J. KOLE
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

Czechs feel betrayed, Poles irked, Romanians slighted. Ask them who's to blame, and the answer may come as a surprise: President Barack Obama.

George W. Bush fawned over Eastern Europe, and its leaders rushed to join his post-9/11 "coalition of the willing." Now many—officials and ordinary citizens alike—are grumbling over what they perceive as the Obama administration's neglect.

It's a startling shift in a region long accustomed to cozy ties with the United States.

"Now we see the beginning of indifference," said Tudor Salajean, a Romanian historian and researcher.

At times, and from some corners, the new mood can even border on hostile. Obama's approaches to pressing world problems "aren't worth a moldy onion," declared Mircea Mihaies, deputy head of the Romanian Cultural Institute.

Two in three Bulgarians, Czechs, Poles and Romanians approve of Obama's foreign policy, according to a survey published earlier this month by the German Marshall Fund, a nonpartisan policy group. That may seem robust, but it pales in comparison to backing for Obama in Western Europe, where nine in 10 respondents support him.

It's normal for relations to evolve, and at the moment there appear to be few pressing reasons to make eastern Europe a U.S. priority, said Janusz Bugajski, director of the New European Democracies project at the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies.

"These countries may be victims of their own success," Bugajski said Monday. "They're fairly stable. There's no major social unrest or political instability, no real security threats. The more successful you are, the more you tend to slide down the agenda of U.S. foreign policy."

WORLD BRIEFS

Iran to meet world powers, 1st talks in a year

VIENNA (AP)—Iran warned the U.S. and Israel on Monday it will repel any attack—while also tamping down tensions by agreeing to meet with Washington and other world powers more than a year after talks broke down over Tehran's refusal to curb its nuclear activities. The U.S., Iran and European Union expressed hope the Oct. 1 talks could lead to substantive negotiations—despite Iranian warnings it would not even discuss meeting U.N. Security Council demands that it freeze uranium enrichment. But White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said enrichment—which can make both nuclear fuel and fissile warhead material—"would be part of the discussion," along with Tehran's "illicit nuclear weapons program." The prime minister of Israel, Iran's most bitter foe, was quoted as urging tougher action, including additional sanctions to cripple Tehran's economy and turn Iranians against the government.

Mexico orders Bolivian jailed in plane hijacking

MEXICO CITY (AP)—A court has ordered a Bolivian preacher kept in jail during the investigation into sabotage and kidnapping charges in the hijacking of a jetliner from the resort city of Cancun. The Attorney General's Office says a federal court issued the order Monday for Jose Flores. Flores has said he does not regret threatening to detonate a fake bomb aboard an Aeromexico plane last week. He says he was acting on a divine revelation and wanted to warn Mexican President Felipe Calderon an earthquake could occur in 2012. An hourlong standoff at the Mexico City airport ended peacefully when police raided the plane. None of the 103 passengers and seven crew members were harmed. The charges against Flores carry a maximum penalty of 43 years in prison.

US troops raid Somali town controlled by fighters

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—Foreign troops in helicopters strafed a car Monday in a Somali town controlled by Islamist insurgents, killing two men and capturing two others who were wounded, witnesses said. U.S. military officials said American forces were involved in the raid. The commando-style action took place in a village near Barawe amid growing fears that al-Qaida is gaining a foothold in this lawless nation. Two U.S. military officials said forces from the U.S. Joint Special Operations Command were involved. The officials gave no details about the raid or its target, and they spoke on condition of anonymity because the operation was secret.

Campus Life

If swine flu goes to school

By SEEMA MEHTA
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

When the H1N1 flu strain first appeared in the U.S. this past spring, hundreds of schools closed their doors and sent students home, alarmed over the potential for spread that occurs when you bring together a large group of people—and not-always-hygienic people at that. This fall, schools are being more pragmatic.

Based on advice from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, schools are planning to remain open in the almost certain face of widespread flu outbreaks. Question: Are children particularly vulnerable to the virus?

Answer: Young people are particularly susceptible to contracting the virus for unknown reasons, possibly because of a lack of immunity and because of lax hand-washing habits. The spread of the flu among children and young adults can be hastened because of their proximity to others in classrooms, camps, dorms and similar large gathering spots. Overnight camps were particularly hard-hit with flu cases this summer, prompting some to send children home.

Q: Are school outbreaks expected this fall?

A: Federal, state and local health and education officials say it is a near certainty that there will be an increase in the number of flu outbreaks once schools open, and that children could pass the virus to their families and other members of their community.

Q: What are school officials doing to protect children?

A: Many schools and classrooms are being stocked with soap, hand sanitizer, paper towels and tissues, and administrators are sending home letters to parents outlining prevention strategies.

Following guidelines issued by federal, state and county health officials, teachers, nurses and others will stress the importance of hand-washing, and will be on the lookout for students exhibiting flulike symptoms. Some schools are stepping up routine cleaning, especially for doorknobs, computer keyboards and other frequently touched areas.

If the swine flu strain mutates into something more serious, stricter precautions may be instituted, such as screening children for fever when they arrive at school every morning, avoiding large student gatherings and dismissing students on a staggered schedule.

AP
School children in Amman, Jordan on Sunday Sept. 13, 2009, wear masks at the entrance of their school.

Q: If a child becomes ill at school, what happens?

A: The child will be isolated from classmates until the parents pick him or her up, according to federal guidelines. Districts are making contingency plans to allow homework and lessons to be delivered to students who are ill, and to allow makeup tests and other classwork once they return to school.

Some institutions plan to notify parents if a classmate becomes ill and children were exposed to the virus. do not plan to make notifications.

Q: When can an ill child return to school?

A: After the child is fever-free for 24 hours. Most schools will follow the honor system, but some will require a doctor's note for readmittance. Parents should check with their schools for specific requirements.

Q: Will schools close if children or staff become ill?

A: More than 700 schools throughout the nation closed in spring 2009 because of suspected outbreaks. But the federal government is urging a more conservative approach this fall: Schools should be closed only as a last resort if classes could not continue because so many students or staff are absent. Exceptions are schools that serve vulnerable populations, such as pregnant teenagers or students in fragile health with conditions such as muscular dystrophy.

Q: Who makes decisions about how schools prepare for the flu and whether schools should be closed?

A: School district officials who prepared for swine flu with guidance from county, state and federal health officials make that decision. The decision to close a public or private school because of an outbreak would be made by either the district superintendent or the county health officer.

Q: Should parents keep their children home from sleepovers and other social gatherings on the weekends and after school?

A: Health officials say children should be kept home only if they are ill.

Q: Do private schools, after-school programs or childcare centers have different rules?

A: All institutions are following the guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as state and county health officials. Some policies vary, such as whether classmates of an ill child are notified. Parents will likely receive information about local policies at the start of the school year, in letters sent home and in back-to-school packets.

Q: Where can parents turn for more information about the virus?

A: More information can be found at the federal government's web site at www.flu.gov.

Chuuk hosts upgraded communication system

Broadening the possibilities for distance learning instruction as well as emergency services a new communication system has been enabled for the use of the community of Chuuk.

The combined expertise of four institutions—PEACESAT, University of Guam, Chuuk State School System, and the Pacific Resources for Education and Learning—as well as their personnel was necessary to rehabilitate and relocate the equipment that was ultimately used on this satellite earth station.

The system is housed on the same grounds as the PREL service center in Weno and is currently operated and maintained by T.R. Mori.

Video teleconference capabilities are immediately available but only hint at the real potential of the service. While being a reliable and cost-effective instrument for emergency management and health services, the earth station will provide an extraordinary opportunity for education via distance learning professional development and training.

PREL looks forward to the opportunity to strengthen its partnership with the University of Guam, PEACESAT, and the Chuuk State System in order to reach as many members of the community as possible with educational offerings that address their particular needs.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Jason Newcomb, Arthur Garbiso, Bruce Best, T.R. Mori, and Ryan Hirae pose with the newly installed satellite dish in Weno, Chuuk.

While the satellite earth station now resides on the same premises as the PREL's Chuuk Service Center, it was through the effort of several institutions that this service is possible today. Over the course of one week, Mori from Chuuk State, Bruce Best from the University of Guam, Jason Newcomb and Ryan Hirae from PEACESAT and Arthur Garbiso from PREL worked diligently to disassemble, transport and refurbish the station. Thanks to their combined efforts the community of Chuuk can enjoy its service.

A special thanks to the Chuuk State System and Director Sony for allowing this resource to be transferred to the PREL Chuuk Service center and to Mark Mailo, landowner of the AMJ building, for allowing the satellite earth station to reside on his property. ***(PREL)***

CAMPUS RESOURCES

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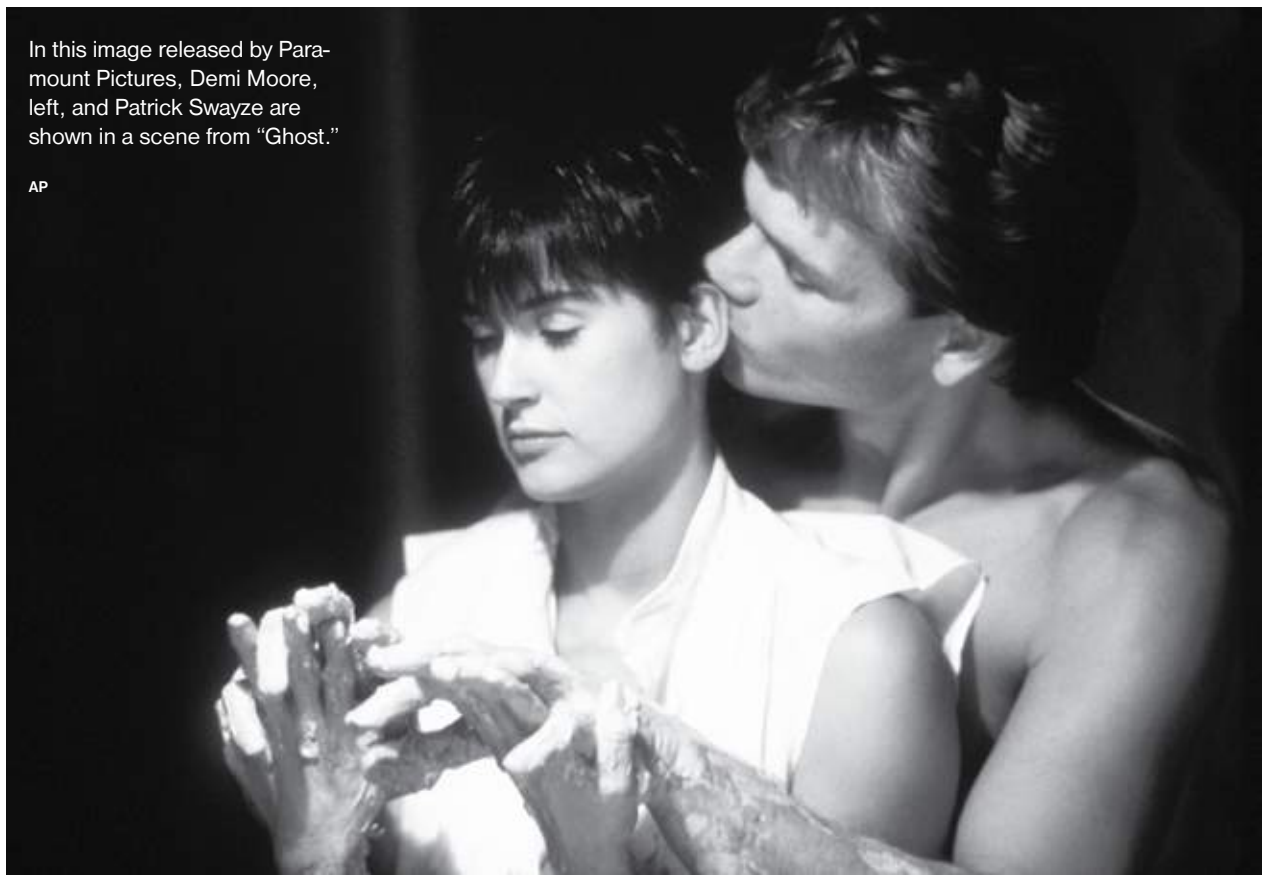
Looking for natural science information that's relevant, dependable and understandable? Check out the USGS Education Web site. Established originally for teachers and students, the site has grown to become a major portal through which the public can access USGS earth and biological science data. The main page is organized by topic and grade level, so information about earthquakes, for example, is easy to find for elementary, secondary or university grade levels. The site provides links to some of the USGS's most popular sites, such as "Videos and Animations" or "The GPS Class," and features topics of current interest in "What's New, What's Happening." Also, you can learn about the newly released Earth Science Literacy Initiative, a national effort to improve earth science literacy and education, sponsored by the National Science Foundation. Visit the Web site at http://education.usgs.gov/. ***(USGS)***

Hunting for plant and animal information just got easier

Do you want an easy, efficient way to sift through massive amounts of online information about plants and animals? A new search engine from the USGS National Biological Information Infrastructure is just the ticket. The NBII has always been a comprehensive source for information on the nation's plants and animals. Now, its revamped search engine offers a variety of new features, including the ability to search multiple databases at the same time and the ability to return results that arrive in "clusters," or automatically generated categories associated with the search topic. For example, a search on "grizzly bear" turns up cluster topics like "endangered species," "park science" and "grizzly bear management planning" that point to new areas of inquiry. To try the search engine yourself and get a sense of its power, visit http://www.nbii.gov.

Life & Style

Publicist: Patrick Swayze dies at 57



In this image released by Paramount Pictures, Demi Moore, left, and Patrick Swayze are shown in a scene from "Ghost."

AP

Patrick Swayze, the hunky actor who danced his way into moviegoers' hearts with "Dirty Dancing" and then broke them with "Ghost," died Monday after a battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 57.

"Patrick Swayze passed away peacefully today with family at his side after facing the challenges of his illness for the last 20 months," his publicist, Annett Wolf, said in a statement Monday evening. Swayze died in Los Angeles, Wolf said, but she declined to give further details.

Fans of the actor were saddened to learn in March 2008 that S wayze was suffering from a particularly deadly form of cancer. He kept working despite the diagnosis, putting together a memoir with his wife and shooting "The Beast," an A&E drama series for which he had already made the pilot.

Swayze said he opted not to use painkilling drugs while making "The Beast" because they would have taken the edge off his performance. The show drew a respectable 1.3 million viewers when the 13 episodes ran in 2009, but A&E said it had reluctantly decided not to renew it for a second season.

When he first went public with the illness, some reports gave him only weeks to live, but his doctor said his situation was "considerably more optimistic" than that. Swayze acknowledged that time might be running out given the grim nature of the disease.

"I'd say five years is pretty wishful thinking," Swayze told ABC's Barbara Walters in early 2009. "Two years seems likely if you're going to believe statistics. I want to last until they find a cure, which means I'd better get a fire under it."

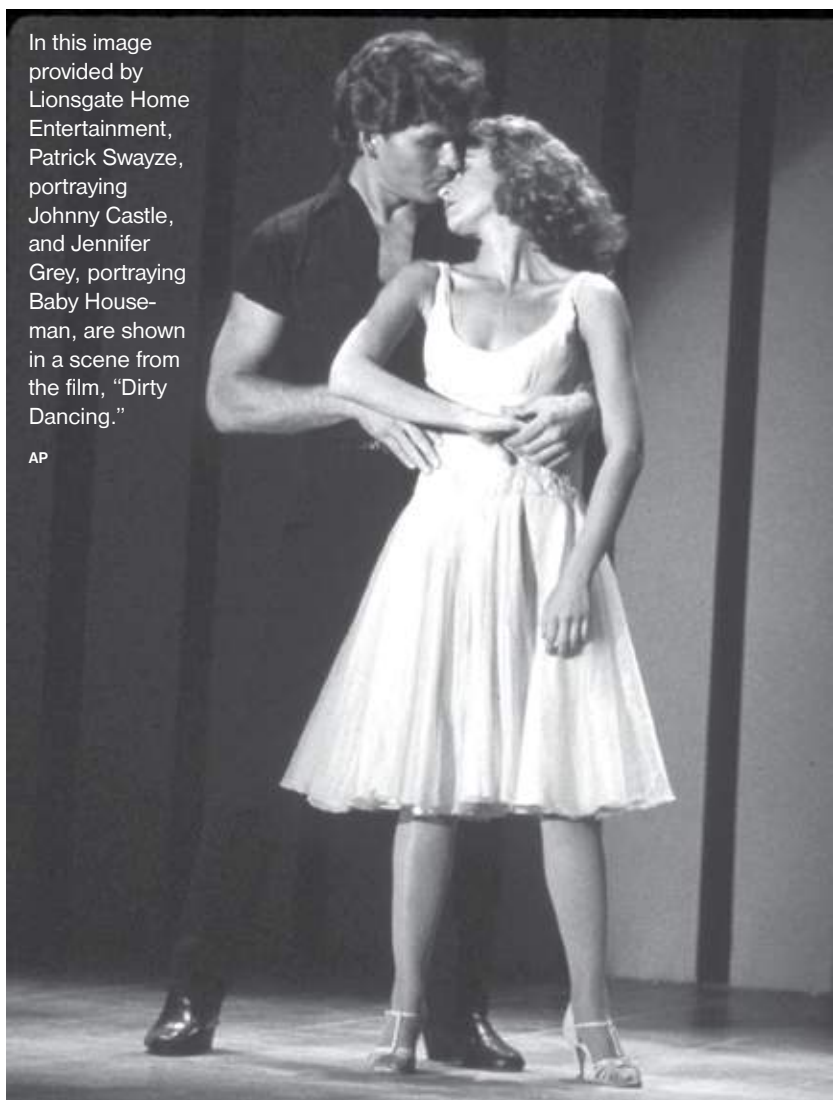
C. Thomas Howell, who costarred with Swayze in "The Outsiders," "Grandview U.S.A." and "Red Dawn," said: "I have always had a special place in my heart for Patrick. While I was fortunate enough to work with him in three films, it was our passion for horses that forged a friendship between us that I treasure to this day. Not only did we lose a fine actor today, I lost my older `Outsiders' brother."

Other celebrities used Twitter to express condolences, and "Dirty Dancing" was the top trending topic for a while Monday night, trailed by several other Swayze films.

Ashton Kutcher—whose wife, Demi Moore, costarred with Swayze in "Ghost"—wrote: "RIP P Swayze." Kutcher also linked to a YouTube clip of the actor poking fun at himself in a classic "Saturday Night Live" sketch, in which he played a wannabe Chippendales dancer alongside the corpulent—and frighteningly shirtless—Chris Farley.

Larry King wrote: "Patrick Swayze was a wonderful actor & a terrific guy. He put his heart in everything. He was an extraordinary fighter in his battle w Cancer." King added that he'd do a tribute to Swayze on his CNN program on Tuesday night.

A three-time Golden Globe nominee, Swayze became a star with his performance as the misunderstood bad boy Johnny Castle in "Dirty Dancing." As the son of a choreographer who began his career in musical theater, he seemed a natural to play the role.



In this image provided by Lionsgate Home Entertainment, Patrick Swayze, portraying Johnny Castle, and Jennifer Grey, portraying Baby Houseman, are shown in a scene from the film, "Dirty Dancing."

AP

A coming-of-age romance starring Jennifer Grey as an idealistic young woman on vacation with her family and Swayze as the Catskills resort's sexy (and much older) dance instructor, the film made great use of both his grace on his feet and his muscular physique.

It became an international phenomenon in the summer of 1987, spawning albums, an Oscar-winning hit song in "(I've Had) the Time of My Life," stage productions and a sequel, 2004's "Dirty Dancing: Havana Nights," in which he made a cameo.

Swayze performed and co-wrote a song on the soundtrack, the ballad "She's Like the Wind," inspired by his wife, Lisa Niemi. The film also gave him the chance to utter the now-classic line, "Nobody puts Baby in a corner."

Swayze followed that up with the 1989 action flick "Road House," in which he played a bouncer at a rowdy bar. But it was his performance in 1990's "Ghost" that showed his vulnerable, sensitive side. He starred as a murdered man trying to communicate with his fiancee (Moore)—with great frustration and longing—through a psychic played by Whoopi Goldberg.

Swayze said at the time that he fought for the role of Sam Wheat (director Jerry Zucker wanted Kevin Kline) but once he went in for an audition and read six scenes, he got it.

Why did he want the part so badly? "It made me cry four or five times," he said of Bruce Joel Rubin's Oscar-winning script in an AP interview.

"Ghost" provided yet another indelible musical moment: Swayze and Moore sensually molding pottery together to the strains of the Righteous Brothers' "Unchained Melody." It also earned a best-picture nomination and a supporting-actress Oscar for Goldberg, who said she wouldn't have won if it weren't for Swayze.

"When I won my Academy Award, the only person I really thanked was Patrick," Goldberg said in March 2008 on the ABC daytime talk show "The View."

Swayze himself earned three Golden Globe nominations, for "Dirty Dancing," "Ghost" and 1995's "To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything! Julie Newmar," which further allowed him to toy with his masculine image. The role called for him to play a drag queen on a cross-country road trip alongside Wesley Snipes and John Leguizamo.

His heartthrob status almost kept him from being considered for the role of Vida Boheme.

"I couldn't get seen on it because everyone viewed me as terminally heterosexually masculine-macho," he told The Associated Press then. But he transformed himself so completely that when his screen test was sent to Steven Spielberg, whose Amblin pictures produced "To Wong Foo," Spielberg didn't recognize him.

Among his earlier films, Swayze was part of the star-studded lineup of up-and-comers in Francis Ford Coppola's 1983 adaptation of S.E. Hinton's novel "The Outsiders," alongside Rob Lowe, Tom Cruise, Matt Dillon, Ralph Macchio, Emilio Estevez and Diane Lane.

Other '80s films included "Red Dawn," "Grandview U.S.A." (for which he also provided choreography) and "Youngblood," once more with Lowe, as Canadian hockey teammates.

In the '90s, he made such eclectic films as "Point Break" (1991), in which he played the leader of a band of bank-robbing surfers, and the family Western "Tall Tale" (1995), in which he starred as Pecos Bill. He appeared on the cover of People magazine as its "Sexiest Man Alive" in 1991, but his career tapered off toward the end of the 1990s, when he also had a stay in rehab for alcohol abuse. In 2001, he appeared in the cult favorite "Donnie Darko," and in 2003 he returned to the New York stage with "Chicago"; 2006 found him in the musical "Guys and Dolls" in London.

Swayze was born in 1952 in Houston, the son of Jesse Swayze and choreographer Patsy Swayze, whose films include "Urban Cowboy."

He played football but also was drawn to dance and theater, performing with the Feld, Joffrey and Harkness Ballets and appearing on Broadway as Danny Zuko in "Grease." But he turned to acting in 1978 after a series of injuries.

Within a couple years of moving to Los Angeles, he made his debut in the roller-disco movie "Skatetown, U.S.A."

AP

In this 1985 file photo, actor Patrick Swayze is shown in Los Angeles.

The eclectic cast included Scott Baio, Flip Wilson, Maureen McCormack and Billy Barty.

Off-screen, he was an avid conservationist who was moved by his time in Africa to shine a light on "man's greed and absolute unwillingness to operate according to Mother Nature's laws," he told the AP in 2004.

Swayze was married since 1975 to Niemi, a fellow dancer who took lessons with his mother; they met when he was 19 and she was 15. A licensed pilot, Niemi would fly her husband from Los Angeles to Northern California for treatment at Stanford University Medical Center.

In February, Swayze wrote an op-ed piece in the Washington Post titled, "I'm Battling Cancer. How About Some Help, Congress?" in which he urged senators and representatives to vote for the maximum funding for the National Institutes of Health to fight cancer as part of the economic stimulus package.

He also appeared in the September 2008 live television event "Stand Up to Cancer," where he made this moving plea: "I keep dreaming of a future, a future with a long and healthy life, a life not lived in the shadow of cancer, but in the light. ... I dream that the word `cure' will no longer be followed by the words `is impossible.'" ***(AP)***

West takes time for 3rd apology during Leno debut

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kanye West used Jay Leno's prime-time debut Monday to offer another apology for ruining Taylor Swift's night at the MTV Video Music Awards and to say he's going to take some time off for reflection.

West said he knew he was wrong the moment he handed the microphone back to Swift, when he was bathed in boos. He had interrupted Swift on Sunday night as she accepted a best female video award for "You Belong With Me," arguing that Beyonce's "Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It)" was more deserving.

"It was rude, period," West said. He posted a second apology to Swift on his blog on Monday, and told Leno he wanted to apologize to the country music star in person.

West took a long pause when Leno asked what his mother would have said about the incident. West was very close to his mother, Donda, who died in November 2007. He said yes when Leno asked whether his mother would have given him a lecture.

"So many celebrities, they never take the time off," he said. "I've never taken the time off to really—you know, just music after music and tour after tour. I'm just ashamed that my hurt caused someone else's hurt. My dream of what awards shows are supposed to be, 'cause, and I don't try to justify it because I was just in the wrong. That's period. But I need to, after this, take some time off and just analyze how I'm going to make it through the rest of this life, how I'm going to improve."

He had already been set to perform on Leno's first prime-time show on NBC, but asked for time to talk with the controversy swirling. It may have been a stroke of luck for Leno, whose daily prime-time comedy show already was the most buzzed-about fall debut. With West, it's likely to draw even more curious viewers.

It was reminiscent of when Hugh Grant appeared on the "Tonight" show with Leno in 1995 to make amends after being arrested with a prostitute—only this time there weren't many laughs. The Grant appearance was a springboard for Leno to eclipse David Letterman in the ratings.

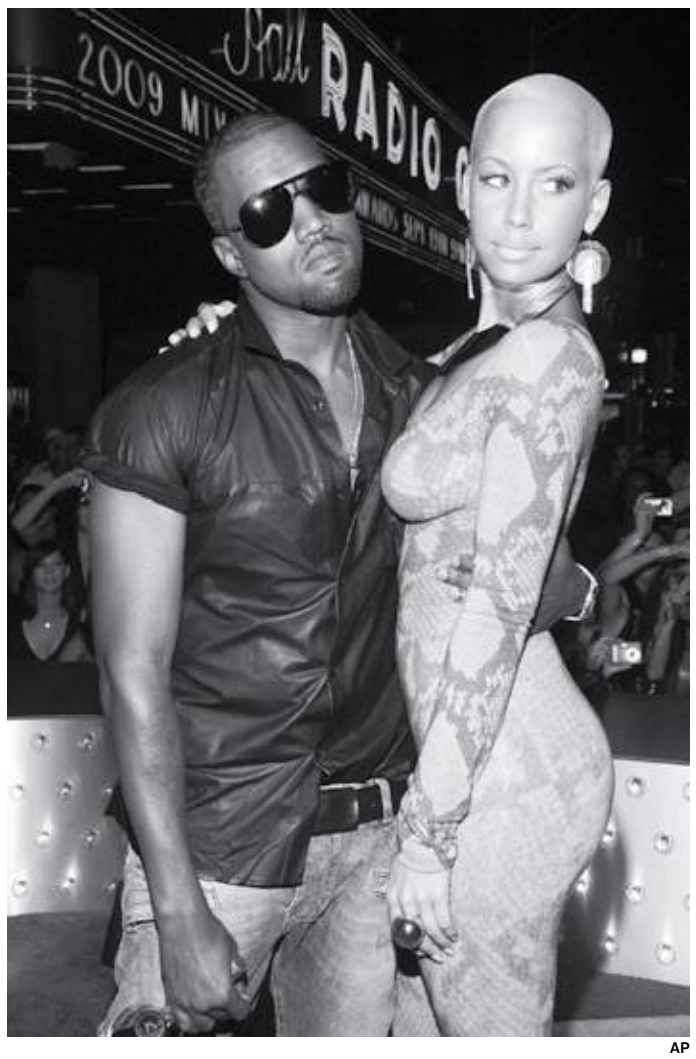
Leno was quick to reference the West incident with one of his first monologue jokes Monday, saying President Barack Obama had invited West and the 19-year-old Swift for a "root beer summit."

West has gotten in trouble before with ill-timed comments, raising scenes after losing awards himself at the VMAs, the Grammys and the American Music Awards. In 2005, West said during a telethon after Hurricane Katrina that President George W. Bush "doesn't care about black people."

MTV wasn't complaining on Monday. Televised on MTV, MTV2 and VH1 simultaneously on Sunday, the awards show was seen by 11 million people, according to Nielsen Media Research. That's up 21 percent over last year and was the most-watched Video Music Awards since 2002.

A corporate partner of MTV jumped to take advantage of it. Comedy Central, like MTV owned by Viacom Inc., planned to rerun four times in a row on Tuesday a "South Park" episode that poked fun at West's ego.

West spoke on Leno's show before performing with Jay-Z and Rihanna on Jay-Z's song "Run This Town."



AP

Kanye West and Amber Rose arrive at the MTV Video Music Awards on Sunday Sept. 13, 2009 in New York.

Some of West's fans who were waiting to see the performance on Leno's show condemned the rapper.

"I thought that was very disrespectful," said Oscar Velasquez, 21, of Valley Village, Calif. "He's a great musician, but as a person, he's not a role model or anything. And I think that not only are his fans disappointed but his mom would be disappointed. I don't think she raised him like that, to be like that. I think he needs to remember that."

Velasquez said he'd remained a fan of West's after previous awards show blowups, but, "I'm getting kind of tired of it. There comes to a point where you know what? That's how you are, but you can change. And he needs to change."

Errimis Pullett, 27, of San Diego, said he planned to boo West.

He said he'd dismissed West's previous award show tantrums by telling himself, "'Oh, he's kind of misunderstood. He's a little egotistical.' But last night, just jumping in front of Taylor Swift and stealing her moment, that was ridiculous. I can't support or defend that. I'm a huge fan, bought all his CDs. ... I'm glad Beyonce stepped in and let her finish her speech up."

This time, Pullett said, "he looked more like a bully."

Official: No Ukrainian adoption for Elton John

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—Elton John won't be able to adopt a 14-month-old HIV-positive child from Ukraine because the pop star is too old and isn't married, the government said Monday.

Adoption and gay rights advocates expressed regret about the determination by Family, Youth and Sports Minister Yuriy Pavlenko, while a children's charity had reservations about John's weekend announcement that he and his male partner, David Furnish, wanted to adopt the boy.

John announced his desire after meeting the boy, named Lev, while touring an orphanage Saturday as part of an anti-AIDS charity project.

"I don't know how we do that, but he has stolen my heart. And he has stolen David's heart and it would be wonderful if we can have a home," John said.

AP

Pop singer Elton John kisses baby Lev during a news conference at a orphanage for HIV-positive children in the town of Makeyevka outside Donetsk, September 12, 2009.

But Pavlenko told The Associated Press that the adoption will not happen because adoptive parents must be married and because the pop star is too old.

The singer is 62 and Ukrainian law requires a parent to be no more than 45 years older than an adopted child.

John and Furnish tied the knot in 2005 in one of the first legalized civil unions in Britain, but Pavlenko said Ukraine does not recognize gays unions as marriage.

"Elton John will not be able to adopt a Ukrainian child and if he files that request we will unfortunately deny it," Pavlenko said. "The law is the same for everybody: for a president, for a minister, for Elton John."

John spokesman Gary Farrow declined to comment.

Pavlenko said Ukraine was grateful for the singer's charity work and expressed hope that his desire to adopt Lev would spur the domestic adoption of more children with health problems, which is still rare in Ukraine.

Pavlenko said domestic adoptions have increased significantly thanks to government child-care supplements and maternity leave for adoptive families. In 2004, Ukrainian families adopted about 1,500 children compared with 2,500 adoptions by foreigners. This year, 2,500 orphans were adopted locally while 1,000 found homes abroad.

However, Ukrainians are still reluctant to adopt ill, psychologically challenged children or those older than 10. Pavlenko said that only about 30 HIV-positive children have been adopted since 2007. About 32,000 Ukrainian orphans are waiting to be adopted this year, but only 2,000 Ukrainian families are lined to adopt them.

Albert Pavlov, head of the Happy Child foundation for orphaned and sick children in Zaporizhia, said he opposed adoption by gays, but called for removing age and marriage restrictions for adopters.

"I don't understand why a middle-aged single woman, if she is in good health, cannot raise a child," Pavlov said.

Svyatoslav Sheremet, head of Ukraine's Gay Forum, a leading gay rights organization in Ukraine, said the regulations were depriving the boy of a chance to find a family and love.

"If I were that child, I would feel very bitter and sad," Sheremet said.

Yukie Mokuo, UNICEF representative in Ukraine, said that foreign adoptions should be encouraged when no local families can be found.

But charity Save the Children UK, which also expressed misgivings over Madonna's adoption of a girl from Malawi, said celebrity adoptions risked sending the wrong message about how best to help foreign children.

"International adoption can actually exacerbate the problem it hopes to solve" by encouraging parents to abandon children in the hope of giving them a better life, spokesman Adrian Lovett said.

"Most orphans in institutions, including in Ukraine, have one or both parents still living, or have an extended family that could care for them with the right support," Lovett said in a statement.

In Loving Memory

Pasqual Ngiraiterong Brel

Fondly known as "**OITE**"

January 2, 1945 to September 6, 2009

"Of Melekeok, Palau, having made Saipan his home for many years, was called to eternal life by our Heavenly Father at the age of 64."

He now joins his daughter: †Baslisa Brel and all his relatives and ancestors that predeceased him.

Prayers will be offered each evening at his residence in Chalan Kiya, beginning September 16, 2009 through September 18, 2009 at 8:00 p.m.

Oite will be missed and remembered in the hearts of his,

Wife: Isadora West Brel
Daughther: Micheline Brel (Aiden Ngiratis; Tegan Baslisa)
Sons: Lanz Brel and Lucky Brel
Sisters: Akemi Delbirt, Damiana "Nana" Ruluked, Angeline Sandei Ilek
Brothers: Dismas Sandei Ilek, Sinesio Sandei Ilek, Evalisto Ilek, Richard Sandei, Lewis Ilek, Isidoro Ilek, Toshiro Mifune Sandei Ilek

As well as numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, his brothers and sisters in laws, Christian fellows, friends and neighbors.

Last Respects & Christian Fellowship for Oite will be held at the Saipan Palauan Evangelical Church in Navy Hill on September 19, 2009 (Saturday) at 8:00 a.m.

Internment will follow at Tanapag Cemetery.

Houston to Winfrey: Brown was emotionally abusive

CHICAGO (AP)—Whitney Houston took drugs, including cocaine and marijuana, with ex-husband Bobby Brown, who was emotionally abusive during their marriage and at one point spit on her, the singer said during an interview that aired Monday on "The Oprah Winfrey Show."

"I had so much money and so much access to what I wanted," Houston told Winfrey. "I didn't think about the singing part anymore. I was looking for my young womanhood."

After a long absence from music, Houston is staging a career comeback with a new album "I Look to You" released last month and a two-part appearance on "The Oprah Winfrey Show." Houston is one of the best-selling artists of all time, but her career stalled as she grappled with drug problems and a troubled marriage to Brown.

The couple married in 1992 and were divorced in 2007. During their marriage, Brown was arrested on drug and alcohol charges, and Houston twice entered drug rehabilitation programs. She has custody of their teenage daughter.

Houston told Winfrey that Brown wasn't physically abusive but "he slapped me once but he got hit on the head three times by me."

A phone message left Monday with Brown's attorney in Atlanta seeking comment was not immediately returned.

AP

this Aug. 31, 2009 photo provided Monday, Sept. 7, 2009 by Harpo Productions shows television talk-show host Oprah Winfrey, right, and Whitney Houston during an interview at the Town Hall in New York.

Houston said she was attracted to Brown because he took control of their relationship and had "a sweet, gentle tenderness."

"At home, he was very much the father, he was very much the man," Houston said. "He was very much in control. I liked that. When he said something, I listened. I was very interested in having someone have that kind of control over me. It was refreshing."

She described an episode after a birthday party for Brown that left her "horrified. He spit on me, in my face." She said their daughter, Bobbi Kristina, witnessed the incident, which left Houston "very hurt, very angry."

Houston also said Brown would smash and break things at their home.

The 46-year-old singer described her drug use, saying it became "heavy" after her 1992 movie "The Bodyguard." She said she would take marijuana combined with rock cocaine.

"You put your marijuana, you lace it, you roll it up and you smoke it," Houston explained to Winfrey.

During a 2002 ABC interview with Diane Sawyer, Houston admitted dabbling in drugs but denied using crack, then uttered the now-famous phrase: "Crack is wack."

"He was my drug," Houston told Winfrey of Brown. "I didn't do anything without him. I wasn't getting high by myself. It was me and him together. We were partners."

Houston said she stuck with Brown because she took her marriage vows seriously. She said she told her daughter about her drug use and took her with her to an Atlanta drug rehab for mothers and children.

"I didn't lie to her," Houston said.

Her mother also tried to intervene, the singer said, and at one point came to Houston's home with police.

The singer prayed for help, asking God to give her strength, she said.

"I was so weak to him," Houston said. "I was so weak to the love."

'Chloe' debuts amid condolences for co-star Neeson

TORONTO (AP)—Liam Neeson's colleagues on the sexual thriller "Chloe" reiterated their condolences over the death of his wife and gratitude for his quick return to finish the film.

"Chloe" had its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival on Sunday night, less than six months after Natasha Richardson sustained a fatal head injury while skiing in Quebec.

Neeson, who is now making another film and did not attend the premiere, had departed the Toronto set of the film to be with his wife but returned the following week for his last few days of shooting.

After Richardson's death, "I got this e-mail from him that he wanted to come back and finish it right away, and that it was the best thing for him to do," "Chloe" director Atom Egoyan said in an interview Monday. "And that is just amazing. He's a consummate professional, and I think that's the smartest thing he could have done."

"Chloe," inspired by the French drama "Nathalie," revolves around a woman (Julianne Moore) who suspects her husband (Neeson) of cheating and hires a prostitute (Amanda Seyfried in the title role) to try to seduce him as proof of his infidelity.

The story twists into "Fatal Attraction" territory as lies, jealousy, suspicions and obsessions mount among the couple, their teenage son and Chloe.

"Everybody in this film has a somewhat different perception of the events and therefore a different reality," Moore said. "It kind of explored a place in a marriage where they've been together for a long time and maybe felt they knew an awful lot about each other. And then one day, she goes, 'Oh my gosh, I don't think he's here at all.'"

AP

Actress Julianne Moore attends a news conference to promote her new film "Chloe" during the Toronto International Film Festival on Monday, Sept. 14, 2009, in Toronto.

The key relationship in the film is between Moore and Seyfried's characters, with Neeson in a supporting role. Egoyan had directed Neeson in a play in New York City a year earlier and began pitching "Chloe" to the actor around that time.

"It was very generous of him to do this film, because it really is about the two women, and for an actor of that stature to do this role, it's a really generous thing," Egoyan said.

While the filmmakers were able to carry on with "Chloe," Neeson's tragedy left a personal mark on his cast and crew mates, said producer Ivan Reitman.

"I think the biggest effect was the human impact, the realization that life can change in an instant, and people we love or ourselves are here one moment, and then they're gone," Reitman said. "It didn't change the film, but it changed all of us as human beings."

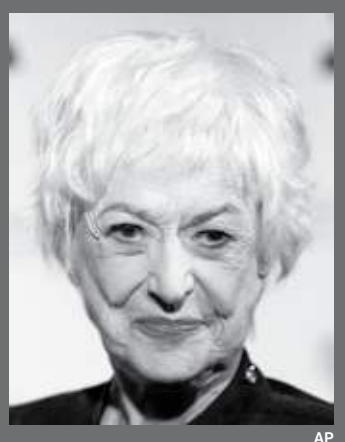
Bea Arthur remembered with love and laughter

NEW YORK (AP)—They remembered with love—and a lot of laughter—the star of television's "Maude" and "The Golden Girls," a woman who also appeared in such hit musicals as "Fiddler on the Roof" and "Mame."

Memories of Bea Arthur filled Broadway's Majestic Theatre Monday as friends, family and co-stars recalled the tall, baritone-voiced and supremely funny actress who died last April of cancer at the age of 86.

A large photo of Arthur, dressed in a stylish black suit stared down during the lengthy celebration, which was hosted by Angela Lansbury. The actress first worked with Arthur in 1966 in "Mame," playing Mame Dennis opposite Arthur's tart-tongued Vera Charles.

"On stage, yes, we were bosom buddies (the title of their famous 'Mame' duet) but it wasn't until years later after we both had successful TV series under our belts that we really got together," Lansbury recalled. "That's when we became ... bosom friends."



AP

This Dec. 9, 2008 file photo shows actress Bea Arthur arriving at the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences 2008 Hall of Fame Ceremony in Los Angeles.

Among the other participants were "Maude" producer Norman Lear, Rosie O'Donnell, "Fiddler" lyricist Sheldon Harnick, Jerry Stiller and Anne Meara, and several of Arthur's television co-stars including Rue McClanahan and Adrienne Barbeau.

"No one seems less gone to me or more alive to me than Bea," said Lear, who also created the television classic, "All in the Family," which is where Arthur's character of the feminist, liberal Maude Findlay first appeared.

"I am sure that's because laughter lingers and no one made me laugh like Bea Arthur," the producer explained. "I have spent most of my life in the company of extraordinary laugh-makers, performers and writers, killers of the art, but Bea Arthur had me laughing in nooks and crannies of my body, places I didn't even know existed."

A parade of photographs and film clips were interspersed throughout the program, including Arthur's rendition (as Maude) of that Frank Sinatra classic "My Way," that brought down the house.

Harnick recalled Arthur's rendition of a torch-song spoof he wrote called "Garbage," and which she sang off-Broadway in "The Shoestring Revue" in 1955. He said Arthur brought something to the song that cannot be taught or directed: "an unerring sense of comedy.

"When she wanted to be funny, she was funny," Harnick explained. "The combination of intelligence, talent, timing, gestures, facial expressions, attitude and voice quality—that smoky baritone once heard never forgotten—that combination was unique and inimitable."

And it wasn't just her voice.

Said Chita Rivera, who appeared with Arthur in "The Shoestring Revue": "Her silences often said so much more than someone with a huge monologue. She would allow you to imagine what she was thinking—(now) that was really funny."

O'Donnell recalled the first time she met Arthur, going up to the actress at a West Side night spot and drunkenly singing the theme song from "Maude" to her (which O'Donnell also sang Monday). It was a bonding moment, according to the comedian.

Emmy Countdown: The greenroom and its inhabitants

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The 61st Primetime Emmy Awards are days away, but Hollywood is already gearing up for Sunday's awards. Here's a look at what's already going around about Tinseltown:

AP

The Architectural Digest Green Room that will be used for the 61st Primetime Emmy Awards is seen during a preview in Los Angeles on Friday, Sept. 11, 2009.

IN THE GREAT GREEN ROOM

Martyn Lawrence-Bullard has pitched a tent backstage at the Nokia Theatre.

The interior designer created a Moorish 18-foot-high tented enclave for the lavish backstage space where celebrities can luxuriate during next Sunday's 61st annual Primetime Emmy Awards. Lawrence-Bullard filled the 625-foot built-from-scratch greenroom with Syrian, Turkish and Moroccan antiques, flooring made of leather tiles and various types of seating.

"I asked my friend Minnie Driver, who had been nominated before, what she thought of the greenroom," said the first-time Architectural Digest greenroom designer. "She said it was great but was in a long gown and couldn't sit down anywhere because it would crease. I thought, 'OK. I'll do bar stools for those dramatic gowns, so they can perch on the edge.'"

For presenters and winners who aren't worried about wrinkles, Lawrence-Bullard flanked the room with two huge sofas, the same kind he said he used when decorating Cher's Malibu house. He also custom-designed the greenroom's fabric wall coverings, wooden mirrored panels and the hand-knotted rug featuring a burnt red tracery relief made of silk thread.

PRESENT TENSE

The Academy of Television Arts & Sciences says Tina Fey, Kiefer Sutherland and Simon Baker will be among the presenters at this Sunday's primetime Emmy Awards.

Each is a nominee. Baker's freshman hit "The Mentalist" earned him a nomination for best actor in a drama. Sutherland won that award in 2006, and is nominated this year for his role in a special "24" movie. Fey is up for best actress in a comedy, the award she won last year.

The live telecast is scheduled for 8 p.m. Eastern Time on Sunday.

The academy says other presenters include Jon Hamm of "Mad Men" and the "Gossip Girl" twosome of Blake Lively and Leighton Meester.

Also taking the stage to hand out trophies will be Alyson Hannigan and Jason Segel of "How I Met Your Mother," Stephen Moyer of "True Blood," NBC late-night host Jimmy Fallon, Dana Delany of "Desperate Housewives" and Chandra Wilson of "Grey's Anatomy," the academy said Monday.

MY EMMY MOMENT:

Past winners recall the moments they won their first Emmy awards:

"The only time I wanted to win, really wanted to win, was when I had something planned to say in the speech that I thought could get a laugh. ... And that night, I just got lucky because my parents had come four years in a row. That year, I presented at the Emmys and said to the audience, 'My parents will keep coming every year until I win.' I go, 'I have to win this year.' And then I actually won. So, it was a great moment to come up and just say, 'Mom and Dad, we are going right to the airport after this.'

—Ray Romano, who won lead comedy actor in 2002 for "Everybody Loves Raymond."

Ray Romano going to golf doctor for reality show

AP

In this June 25, 2009 file photo, Ray Romano appears on the NBC "Today" television program in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Comic Ray Romano is going to the golf doctor. The Golf Channel says the "Everybody Loves Raymond" star will be the focus of its new reality series, "The Haney Project." The series follows Tiger Woods' swing coach Hank Haney as he tries to improve the game of a celebrity.

The first season of "The Haney Project" with former NBA player Charles Barkley was the second-highest rated program in the network's history. Only "The Big Break," about competing for a spot on the professional tour, did better. The Golf Channel started in 1995.

Barkley's appeal was his hideously bad swing. Funnyman Romano, who's "obsessed" with golf and wants to get better, will add entertainment value to the show, said Tom Stathakes, the network's programming chief.

The Romano project is expected to air in March.

The Golf Channel is trying to become more than just putts and slices. "Law & Order" actor Anthony Anderson is host of a news program called "Golf in America," and the network is filming a reality series about troubled golfer John Daly.

The Fray sues manager over copyrights to songs

DENVER (AP)—The Fray songwriting duo of Joseph King and Isaac Slade on Monday filed a lawsuit against their manager over the copyrights to their songs.

King and Slade, who wrote the 2005 hits "Over My Head (Cable Car)" and "How to Save a Life," and the current hit "You Found Me," say manager Gregg Latterman's company obtained partial ownership of their songs when the band members signed a publishing agreement in July 2005.

The lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court says Latterman told the band members that his company, Evanston, Ill.-based Gregg Alan Corp., was only getting a finders fee. Instead, the band alleges Latterman's company obtained ownership to a portion of the composers' music through the agreement.

'America's Got Talent' finalists wow judges

In this photo taken March 12, 2009, actor Nick Cannon speaks during the the Nickelodeon 2009 Upfront Presentation in New York.

AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The "America's Got Talent" finalists did it their way—and the judges liked it.

Piers Morgan called the Texas Tenors, a trio of crooners who performed Frank Sinatra's "My Way," his new "guilty pleasure." David Hasselhoff said singing siblings Voices of Glory had a "slam-dunk" with their rendition of Whitney Houston's "Greatest Love of All." And Sharon Osbourne proclaimed that rhythm makers Recycled Percussion "belong in Vegas

Viewer votes will determine which of the 10 finalists win the $1 million prize Wednesday.

Judge: King children must meet to discuss estate

ATLANTA (AP)—A judge has ordered the surviving children of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King to hold a shareholders' meeting to discuss their father's estate.

The Rev. Bernice King and Martin Luther King III sued their brother, Dexter King, last year to force him to open the books of their father's estate. The lawsuit claimed Dexter King, the estate's administrator, has refused to provide documents concerning the estate's operations.

Coretta Scott King died in 2006 and Yolanda King, the Kings' eldest child, died in 2007—leaving the three remaining siblings as the sole shareholders and directors of their father's estate. It is set up as a corporation, but there has not been an annual shareholders' meeting since 2004.

Dexter King has also sued his sister, who administers their mother's estate. He has asked a judge to force his sister to turn over Coretta Scott King's personal papers, including love letters central to a now-defunct $1.4 million book deal.

Secret to great conversation is letting someone else talk

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I am a male in my early 20s and lucky to have several good friends and acquaintances. I'm invited to gatherings and parties pretty regularly.

I have no problem relating to people I know well. But when I have to converse with people I don't know—the "friends of friends" —I feel uncomfortable.

It's not that I am particularly shy. It's that I stumble and become tongue-tied when I try to talk to someone I don't know very well. The conversation lags, and I think the other person ends up feeling as uneasy as I do.

In the scheme of things, I realize this is not like some of the other serious issues I see in your column, but I believe you have mentioned becoming better in social situations before. I don't want to come across as stuck up or unfriendly, and I'm afraid that's what might be happening. Can you help?

DIALOGUE-DEFICIENT IN ST. PAUL

DEAR DIALOGUE-DEFICIENT: The phrase "seek and ye shall find" is one I heard years ago. It stuck in my memory because it can be applied to so many different things.

It applies in your situation because, believe it or not, when it comes to making conversation, being a good listener will do more for you than being a good talker.

If you want to make a hit with people, show an interest by asking them questions about themselves. People enjoy talking about themselves and what they're into. Give them a chance, and they'll think you're a great conversationalist.

Just remember to be tactful, discreet and not too personal. Example: Do not ask someone you've just met how much he or she paid for something, or whether the person always drinks as much as it appears he or she has that evening.

Be generous with compliments, but be sure they're sincere. Most people can spot a brown-noser within five minutes.

Stay informed about current events. The more you know about what's going on in the world, the better company you'll be. Read the news and editorials and—of course—Dear Abby.

These commonsense suggestions and more are contained in my booklet "How to Be Popular." It can be ordered by sending your name and mailing address, plus a check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds), to Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

But before I finish with this subject, a word of warning: Don't be a know-it-all. People who come on like they're an authority on everything are about as welcome as a skunk at a garden party. They make those of us who are just average feel insecure and uncomfortable.

And when you talk to someone, look that person in the eye. If you're constantly looking over his or her shoulder, the person will think you're looking for other company. This happened to me when I was introduced to a man who was running for office, and needless to say, the man didn't get my vote.

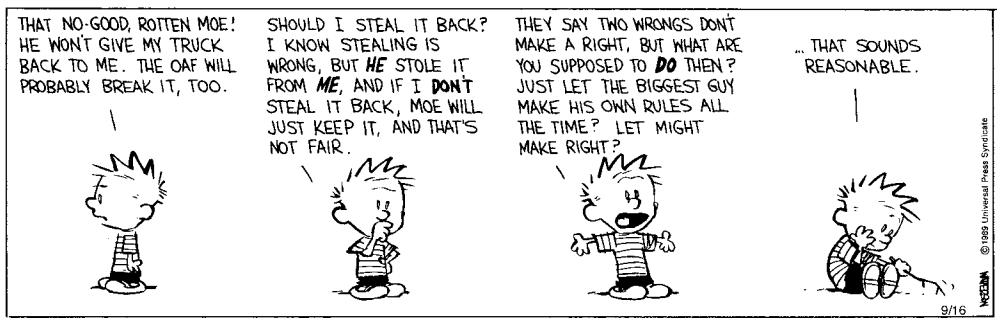
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


THAT NO-GOOD, ROTTEN MOE! HE WON'T GIVE MY TRUCK BACK TO ME. THE OAF WILL PROBABLY BREAK IT, TOO.
SHOULD I STEAL IT BACK? I KNOW STEALING IS WRONG, BUT HE STOLE IT FROM ME, AND IF I DON'T STEAL IT BACK, MOE WILL JUST KEEP IT, AND THAT'S NOT FAIR.
THEY SAY TWO WRONGS DON'T MAKE A RIGHT, BUT WHAT ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO DO THEN? JUST LET THE BIGGEST GUY MAKE HIS OWN RULES ALL THE TIME? LET MIGHT MAKE RIGHT?
... THAT SOUNDS REASONABLE.
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9/16

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I'LL BET I'M MORE BORED THAN YOU ARE
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE
YOU'RE NOT SITTING HERE WITH YOU
JIM DAVIS 9-16
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www.garfield.com
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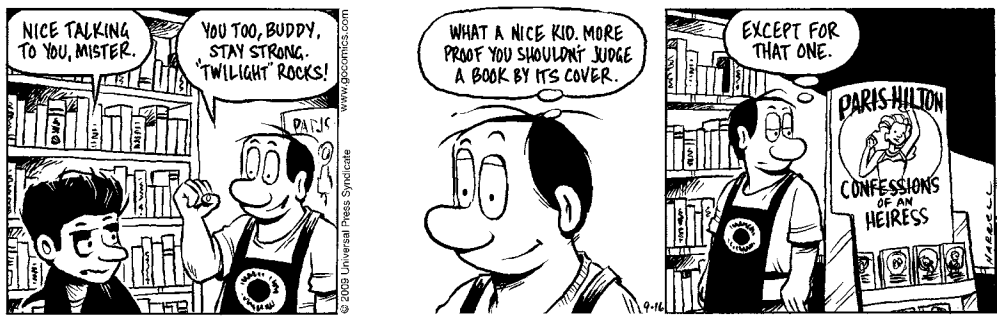
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset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EXCEPT FOR THAT ONE.
PARIS HILTON
CONFESSIONS OF AN HEIRESS
9-16

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

THAT'S A DOUBLE WHAMMER WITH CHEESE COMBO MEAL. DO YOU WANT THAT SUPER-SIZED?
NO
THAT'LL BE $4.95.
SHOOT.
COULD YOU UNDERSIZE THAT?
2009 © Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
9-16

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Guy
5 Society newbie
8 Buckle
12 Alkali neutralizer
13 Eggs
14 October stone
15 Behave ostentatiously
17 Doing
18 Elder
19 Formed into a heap
21 — de plume
22 Icelandic volume
23 Where "Lost" is found
26 Chart
28 Is tangent to
31 Snatch
33 Run-down horse
35 Birthright barterer
36 Like some seals
38 Upper surface
40 Recede
41 Probability
43 Tease
45 July holiday
47 Slanted lettering
51 As well
52 Sooners' home
54 Bobbin
55 Slithery fish
56 Skiers' carrier
57 Gangster's girlfriend
58 "CSI" evidence
59 A handful

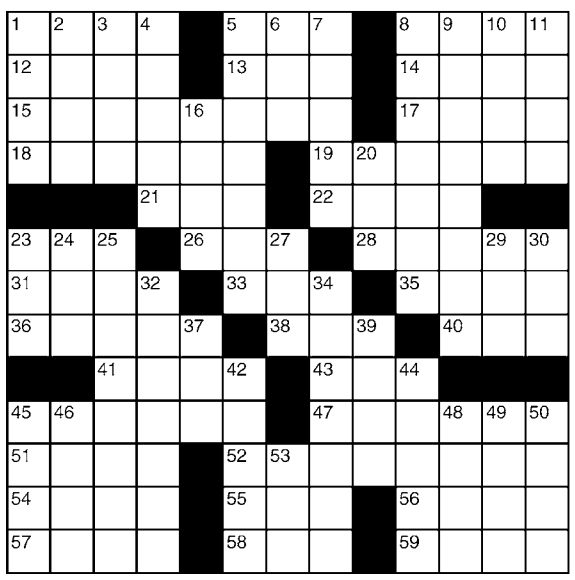
DOWN

1 Part of "E = mc2"
2 Rue the run
3 Narnia's Aslan, e.g.
4 Newsman Newman
5 His is an entry-level job
6 Actress Mendes
7 Wash
8 Potential
9 Clapping
10 Assessment
11 Trudge along
16 Explosive sound
20 Greek mountain
23 Mellow
24 Type of lingerie
25 Baggage-claim structure
27 Vanna's cohort
29 Bill
30 Hero sandwich
32 Sleeping bag, maybe
34 Ape
37 Pesticide letters
39 Pocket bread
42 Furnished with footwear
44 Thai money
45 Locale for 4-H'ers
46 Margarine
48 Timber wolf
49 Mosque bigwig
50 Give a darn
53 Barbie's companion

Solution time: 21 mins.

M	A	S	T	■	B	A	G	■	F	A	N	S
E	C	H	O	■	A	B	A	■	A	L	E	E
S	H	O	R	T	C	U	T	■	T	B	A	R
A	Y	E	■	R	O	T	■	S	C	A	R	F
■	■	■	T	I	N	■	R	A	H	■	■	■
I	D	A	H	O	■	T	H	W	A	R	T	S
D	E	M	I	■	F	O	O	■	N	O	A	H
S	W	I	N	D	L	E	■	S	C	E	N	E
■	■	■	M	A	Y	■	F	O	E	■	■	■
S	C	R	I	M	■	L	E	I	■	F	C	C
I	R	O	N	■	T	A	L	L	T	A	L	E
D	O	L	T	■	O	N	O	■	O	V	E	N
E	W	E	S	■	T	E	N	■	W	E	F	T

Yesterday's answer 9-16



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Madeline Zima, 24; Alexis Bledel, 28; Tina Barrett, 33; Marc Anthony, 41

Happy Birthday: You'll have plenty to deal with that will require hands-on applications. Don't leave any room for error. You have a lot to gain from the changes you face this year. Don't give false hope or be taken in by it when it comes to love, romance or dealing with friends or youngsters. Be concise to avoid someone's misinterpreting your intentions. Your numbers are 6, 13, 19, 23, 25, 28, 40

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't point the finger or nag when an empathetic point of view will bring better results. The more understanding you are, the more knowledge you will receive for making a sound judgment. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Make the effort to deal with people in person. You will get a much better response and more accomplished if you can offer your ideas and plans directly. Your preparation will lead to success. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't do something stupid because you are all wrapped up in a personal matter. Separate your business and personal needs or mistakes will be made. Confusion is apparent and will require help from someone who knows and understands your situation. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): If you are the least bit indecisive, someone will try to talk you into doing something you don't want to do. A little aggression on your part will set the record straight. Good things are heading your way, so stay in control. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You'll have trouble controlling your emotions, especially when dealing with personal matters, relationships and where money and love intertwine. There will be a fine line between buying and winning friendship. Let your Leo charm lead the way. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Not everything will be made available to you. You have to refrain from jumping into a situation too quickly or without proper information. The more time you spend listening, the better off you will be. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Asking for help may be daunting but, in doing so, you will connect with someone who can contribute something in return. Greater opportunities will be made available if you are willing to give back and share your expertise, ideas and time. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't find out things the hard way. Dig deep and you'll discover who is working with you and who isn't. Don't divulge your secrets or they will be used against you by someone you least expect. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): If you let an emotional matter distract you, you will lose sight of important matters. If someone wants to make changes, don't fight him or her but, if it isn't something you want to take part in, take a pass. ✪✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Look at all the different angles involving a financial or legal matter that you are facing. Someone will give you information that may cause you to make a costly mistake. Don't feel you have to act fast, even if someone is pressuring you. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Your future will be influenced by the choices that are made by those close to you. Speak up and let your feelings be known. Love is in the picture and a relationship you are in will open up some new options that could help your current situation. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): If you are oblivious to what everyone around you is thinking and doing, you will not have a say in what's going on. You must understand the implications so you can protect your interests and perhaps even submit an offer that will benefit you. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You strive for perfection. You handle whatever comes your way with pizzazz and common sense. You are forceful and determined.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

						1	8	
					5	4	7	9
				9	8	3		5
			4	1		5	2	7
		7	5					
3	5	4						
7		3	6					
1			2					
6	9	5	8					

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	1	2	9	6	3	4	8	7
4	3	9	1	7	8	5	6	2
7	8	6	2	4	5	1	9	3
3	5	1	7	9	4	8	2	6
2	4	8	5	3	6	9	7	1
9	6	7	8	2	1	3	4	5
1	9	4	6	5	2	7	3	8
6	7	5	3	8	9	2	1	4
8	2	3	4	1	7	6	5	9

Difficulty Level ★★ 9/15

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

YELLOW ROSES **Solution: 5 letters**

R	R	E	O	T	N	E	M	E	T	I	C	X	E	E
E	E	E	S	F	L	O	W	E	R	S	F	F	G	X
G	V	L	L	U	F	R	E	E	H	C	O	A	N	P
N	I	I	A	A	O	E	O	R	D	E	R	M	A	R
I	L	V	T	T	T	P	R	D	Y	U	T	I	H	E
N	E	Y	I	I	I	I	S	I	O	N	U	L	C	S
N	D	U	G	N	S	O	V	C	N	M	N	Y	L	S
I	Y	M	P	O	G	O	N	E	E	G	E	U	O	I
G	V	O	R	B	L	E	P	S	H	A	D	E	S	O
E	N	O	U	O	E	O	S	A	H	E	N	L	E	N
B	E	D	S	O	L	A	P	S	R	I	S	I	N	M
G	S	A	E	M	G	O	T	A	H	T	P	M	E	O
I	A	T	N	E	V	E	C	S	O	O	N	S	S	O
F	V	E	D	T	H	T	M	R	A	W	W	E	S	L
T	E	E	W	S	Z	E	E	N	T	H	G	I	R	B

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Apology, Beginning, Bloom, Bright, Buds, Care, Change, Cheerful, Closeness, Color, Date, Deliver, Encourage, Envy, Event, Excitement, Expression, Family, Flowers, Fortune, Gift, Giving, Message, Mood, Offering, Order, Partner, Positive, Relationships, Relative, Send, Shade, Shine, Show, Smile, Spouse, Stem, Store, Sunny, Sweet, Upbeat, Vase, Warmth

Yesterday's Answer: Quacking

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only), payable to Universal Press Syndicate. Include $3 postage for the first book order, $1 each for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-2480. **Order online at upuzzles.com.**

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FAX: 670/ 234-7753

Attorney for Plaintiff
Royal Crown Insurance Corporation

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ROYAL CROWN INSURANCE CORPORATION,	)	**Civil Action No. 08-0411-CV**
Plaintiff,	)	
vs.	)	**SUMMONS**
GREENSTONE INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba SAI TRANS COMPANY, LTD., and dba FIRST STOP INSURANCE AGENCY, SAI TRANS COMPANY, LTD., dba FIRST STOP INSURANCE AGENCY, DOROTHY P. CANILLO, ANGEL P. DERAY, SR., and MANUEL M. BANGAYAN, jointly and severally,	)	
Defendants.	)	

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Verified Complaint, which is given you herewith, within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon Plaintiffs counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Verified Complaint.

BY ORDER OF THE ABOVE COURT:

Dated this 31st day of October, 2008.

/s/ Clerk of Court

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-REV-154

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: SEPTEMBER 25, 2009 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PRINTING OF THE 2009 FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR W-2CM AND OS-3710 FOR THE DIVISION OF REVENUE AND TAXATION OFFICE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE DIVISION OF REVENUE AND TAXATION, CENTRAL OFFICE, DANDAN COMMERCIAL CENTER, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS. **PLEASE CONTACT MS. FRANCES ADA OR MS. DELCINA TUDELA AT (670) 664-1000/98 FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.**

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ **ROBERT A. SCHRACK**
ACTING SECRETARY OF FINACE

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-DOC-151

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2009 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"TO RETROFIT EXISTING T-12 LIGHTING AND MAGNETIC BALLASTS WITH ENERGY STAR RATED T-8 FLOURESCENT LIGHTING AND NEW APPROPRIATE MATCHING ELECTRONIC BALLAST A PROJECT UNDER THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 (ARRA)"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MR. AADAM LORTZ, ARRA PROJECT MANAGER VIA E-MAIL TO cnmiarra@gmail.com OR FAX TO +1 (670) 664-3067 NO LATER THAN CLOSE OF BUSINESS, SEPTEMBER 21, 2009.

THIS IS FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ **MICHAEL ADA**
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

JVA No.	Position	Compensation (per annum)	Opening/Closing Date
09-041	Trades Technician (Mechanic-Operator), Rota 1 Position	$17,282.00 - $23,115.00	09/10/09 - 09/24/09
09-042	Trades Technician (Electrician-Operator), Rota 1 Position	$17,282.00 - $23,115.00	09/10/09 - 09/24/09

For information on the duties and minimum qualifications, please stop by the Human Resources Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan.

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WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

PONTEVECCHIO
HIJKLMNO

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Brady rallies Patriots past Bills

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—Back on center stage, Tom Brady acted like, well, the NFL's biggest star.

It seemed to take forever, though.

A year after being sidelined with torn knee ligaments, Brady resembled a rusty game manager more than the invincible record-setting quarterback who guided the Patriots to a perfect 2007 regular season. Yet, he threw two touchdown passes in the final 2:06 as New England beat the Buffalo Bills 25-24 on Monday night.

When the spotlight hit, Brady lived up to the advance billing.

"We have a real competitive locker room, a real competitive team," Brady said. "When you're in a situation like we were, it's when you really have to step it up. It takes every guy on the field to step it up. Hopefully, we will continue to do that."

But Brady needed help in the form of Leodis McKelvin's fumble on a kickoff return after the Patriots pulled within five points.

Placekicker Stephen Gostkowski, of all people, recovered at the Buffalo 31. Brady needed three plays before hitting Benjamin Watson over the middle for the decisive 16-yard touchdown with 50 seconds to go.

Just 1:16 earlier, he found Watson on a similar play for an 18-yard score. It was vintage Brady, who threw for a record 50 TDs two years ago in leading New England to a perfect record.

"Two-minute drives always are fun for a quarterback," Brady said. "Spread it out, the pass rush gets a little tired, you get a feel for the coverage, you just have to be patient.

"I'm glad it's over, glad we are moving on, got a win, and we'll learn from it."

That unbeaten season was spoiled in Brady's last full game that counted, the February 2008 Super Bowl loss to the New York Giants. He was hurt in last season's opener.

Now he's back, although for much of the game he and the Patriots played conservatively, even passively. Indeed, Buffalo seemed ready to break an 11-game losing streak against New England and win for the first time in Gillette Stadium.

Then came the late fireworks, demonstrating that Tom Terrific hasn't lost his touch.

"That's not how we drew it up, but I'll take it," Brady said. "We did a lot of things poorly but we got the win."

Buffalo did a lot of things well, but got a shocking loss.

Coming off a 1-4 preseason in which the offense flopped, the Bills made plenty of big plays.

Trent Edwards outperformed Brady for much of the game and threw for two scores. A 10-yard screen pass TD to Fred Jackson put Buffalo ahead 24-13 with 5:32 to go—even though its new spotlight-grabber, Terrell Owens, barely caused a ripple. Owens had two catches for 46 yards.

When the offense wasn't doing the damage, defensive end Aaron Schobel was rambling 26 yards with an interception for a first-half TD.

Still, these are the Patriots, who have not lost a regular-season game with Brady at quarterback since Dec. 10, 2006. And they still have all those threats in the passing game, from Randy Moss (12 catches, 141 yards) to Wes Welker (12, 93) to tight end Watson (6, 77, two TDs).

Although Brady had those impressive stats, he never looked deep and struggled to convert key plays until the final moments. Perhaps that big hit he took on his shoulder from Albert Haynesworth 2 1/2 weeks ago limited Brady. And maybe his team was uncomfortable in the throwback red uniforms or being introduced as the Boston Patriots for the first of the NFL's tribute games to the old AFL. Something wasn't right in Foxborough—until the end.

"It has nothing to do with his layoff," Moss said. "I think it's just first-game jitters. I'm not making an excuse, we just had to settle down and get to playing football the way we know how."

AP

New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady (12) celebrates the first of two touchdown passes to Benjamin Watson against the Buffalo Bills late in the fourth quarter during an NFL football game, Monday, Sept. 14, 2009, in Foxborough, Mass.

Chargers 24, Raiders 20

At Oakland, California, Philip Rivers answered a pair of Oakland touch downs by leading with two touchdown drives, capped by Darren Sproles 5-yard run with 18 seconds left, that gave San Diego its 12th straight win in its one-sided rivalry with the Raiders.

This might have been the toughest one of the bunch. JaMarcus Russell had given Oakland a 20-17 lead with a 57-yard touchdown pass to rookie Louis Murphy with 2:34 left. But despite having two backup linemen in the game, Rivers calmly led the Chargers down the field for the winning score.

Rivers was six for seven for 79 yards on the winning drive before Sproles silenced the crowd with his run up the middle. This marked the Raiders' 11th straight loss in prime time and perhaps the most painful, considering how close they came.

Chicago Bears LB Urlacher out for season

LAKE FOREST, Ill. (AP)—Finally healthy after two years, Bears linebacker Brian Urlacher launched his regular season by making a run at Aaron Rodgers, lowering his shoulder and plowing over the Packers quarterback in the first quarter.

His 10th season was off to a good start. And then, it was over.0

Chicago's star linebacker went on injured reserve after having surgery Monday to repair a dislocated right wrist and will not be back this season, a major blow for a team with high expectations.

There was no immediate word from Urlacher other than a text message to the Chicago Tribune that said simply: "season is over." But coach Lovie Smith said Urlacher clearly was disappointed.

"He had put himself in position to have an outstanding year," Smith said. "He was playing well in the game before he went down with the injury. Even after the injury to his hand, the competitor in him wanted to continue to play. It's a tough break. There's no way around it, but he's been injured before and he's come back before."

With Urlacher out, Hunter Hillenmeyer is expected to start at middle linebacker this week when the Bears host defending champion Pittsburgh. Chicago also signed linebacker Tim Shaw, who got cut by Jacksonville this month, to a one-year deal on Monday.

The injury to Urlacher occurred in the first quarter of Sunday night's 21-15 loss at Green Bay, though it was not clear when. Urlacher briefly shook his wrist after tackling Packers running back Ryan Grant late in the period, though Smith said he wasn't sure when it happened.

Urlacher played in the second quarter, but left on the Packers' first drive of the second half.

"Talk about a guy that's a great leader," said Hillenmeyer, who replaced Urlacher on Sunday. "First, he plays an entire half of football with a dislocated wrist. I don't think there's many people who can do something like that."

The arrival of Pro Bowl quarterback Jay Cutler sent expectations in Chicago soaring in the offseason, though he threw four interceptions and looked average at best in the loss.

Now the Bears are without the longtime face of the franchise and a stalwart defender in a division with top-tier running backs in Grant and Vikings star Adrian Peterson along with elite quarterbacks such as Rodgers and Minnesota's Brett Favre.

The 31-year-old Urlacher, a six-time Pro Bowler, appeared to be in better shape after being limited by a bad back and neck the past two years.

He looked like his old self midway through the first quarter when he flattened Rodgers just as the quarterback released a pass downfield that a leaping Donald Driver juggled and dropped. Later, with about four minutes left in the quarter, Urlacher took down Grant for one of his three tackles and Packers guard Josh Sitton landed on him.

Urlacher got up and briefly shook his wrist before walking away with what looked like nothing more than a minor injury.

"No one knew the severity of it," linebacker Lance Briggs said. "We knew that it had to be checked out. Now we know."

Smith dismissed the idea of moving Briggs to the middle, meaning the job is Hillenmeyer's for now. He also did not rule out bringing in help from the outside, which they did with Shaw, a third-year pro out of Penn State.

Veterans like former NFL Defensive Player of the Year Derrick Brooks and Zach Thomas, who was cut by Kansas City this month, are still out there, too. The 36-year-old Brooks, who was cut by Tampa Bay in February, has a good relationship with Smith dating to his days on the Buccaneers' staff.

"Derrick's been a great player for a long time in the league," Smith said before the Bears announced they signed Shaw.

Chicago could also be short-handed in other areas, too, with Pittsburgh coming to town on Sunday.

Tight end Desmond Clark took a hard hit after making a catch in the third quarter and left the game with a rib injury. He had little to say Monday, other than this: "Report that to the fans—I'm OK. Just got a little shot to the back; I'm all right."

McNabb's status remains uncertain with cracked rib

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Donovan McNabb's status is uncertain for the Eagles' game against New Orleans next Sunday because of a cracked rib.

"He's pretty sore," coach Andy Reid said Monday. "He's going to try and battle through it. He'll struggle to practice."

Third-year pro Kevin Kolb filled in for McNabb during Philadelphia's 38-10 victory over Carolina in the season opener. He would start against the Saints if McNabb can't play.

Michael Vick is not eligible because he was suspended for the first two regular-season games to complete penalties for bankrolling a dogfighting ring. The Eagles don't have a fourth QB on their roster.

McNabb got hurt when he took a hard shot on a 3-yard TD run in the third quarter.

Rays end 11-game skid, beat Orioles 8-4

BALTIMORE (AP)—The Tampa Bay Rays ended their 11-game losing streak Monday, using a 15-hit attack and an effective pitching performance by David Price to beat the Baltimore Orioles 8-4 in the American League.

The Rays avoided becoming the first World Series team in history to lose 12 in a row the following year. Rookie Reid Brignac had a career-high four hits—his first big league homer, two doubles and a single—and B.J. Upton also connected for Tampa Bay.

Held to eight runs in their previous seven games, the Rays equaled that amount by the fifth inning. Tampa Bay, which batted .183 during its 11-game skid, hadn't had as many as 15 hits in a game since Aug. 24 against Toronto.

AP

Tampa Bay Rays pitcher David Price delivers against the Baltimore Orioles in the first inning of a baseball game, Monday, Sept. 14, 2009, in Baltimore.

Yankees 5, Angels 3

At New York, Mark Teixeira hit a two-run triple on a play that caused Angels center fielder Torii Hunter to lose a shoe, then doubled to start the go-ahead rally in the eighth inning that led New York over Los Angeles in a possible playoff preview.

New York broke a 3-all tie when pinch-runner Brett Gardner took third as part of a double steal and came home as catcher Mike Napoli bounced the throw past third baseman Chone Figgins for an error. Robinson Cano added a run-scoring single, and Mariano Rivera finished to reach 40 saves for the first time in four years and the seventh time in his career.

Tigers 6, Blue Jays 5, 10 innings

At Detroit, Marco Scutaro's second error of the game allowed Brandon Inge to score from second base in the bottom of the 10th inning as Detroit rallied to beat Toronto,

Pinch-hitter Aubrey Huff belted a tying three-run homer in the ninth and Ryan Raburn also went deep for the American League Central-leading Tigers.

Adam Lind and Edwin Encarnacion homered for Toronto.

Brian Wolfe (1-2) walked Inge and Curtis Granderson with one out in the 10th. Alex Avila then hit a grounder to first baseman Lyle Overbay. Scutaro couldn't handle his throw to second and Inge was able to slide home with the winning run.

Athletics 9, Rangers 0

At Arlington, Texas, Brett Tomko pitched a five-hitter for his 100th major league win as Oakland dealt a blow to Texas' playoff hopes.

Released by the New York Yankees on July 29, Tomko (5-3) struck out three and didn't walk a batter in his second career shutout and 13th complete game. He beat Scott Feldman, snapping the right-hander's seven-game winning streak.

The Rangers have lost three of their first four on a nine-game homestand, falling 4 1/2 games behind Boston for the AL wild card. It's the farthest Texas has been out of a playoff spot all season.

Twins 6, Indians 3

At Minneapolis, Michael Cuddyer's tying three-run homer rescued Minnesota in the eighth inning, ruining a fine start for Cleveland by Jeremy Sowers in a victory over the Indians.

Sowers stymied the Twins with his jerky left-handed delivery and left with a 3-0 lead after seven innings. Reliever Tony Sipp let the first two batters reach base in the eighth, though, the first coming on an error by shortstop Asdrubal Cabrera.

Indians manager Eric Wedge summoned the right-handed Chris Perez to face Cuddyer, who crushed a fastball into the stacks of football seats behind center field.

Giants 9, Rockies 1

At San Francisco, Tim Lincecum pitched seven strong innings in his return from an injured back and Eugenio Velez drove in four runs as the San Francisco Giants gained ground on the National League wild card-leading Colorado Rockies with a victory.

Bengie Molina homered and scored three runs and Aaron Rowand drove in two runs for the Giants, who moved within 3 1/2 games of the Rockies in the wild-card race.

Cubs 2, Brewers 0

At Chicago, Ryan Dempster pitched eight shutout innings and Derrek Lee homered for the seventh time in 10 games to carry Chicago over Milwaukee.

Center fielder Sam Fuld and third baseman Aramis Ramirez made outstanding plays to keep Milwaukee off the board and help the Cubs win for the sixth time in seven games.

Dodgers 6, Pirates 2

At Los Angeles, Andre Ethier hit a tiebreaking homer and Manny Ramirez had an early RBI double as Los Angeles opened its penultimate regular-season homestand with a victory over Pittsburgh.

Orlando Hudson had three hits and drove in two late runs as the NL-leading Dodgers (86-59) got hits from all eight starting position players to move back to a season-high 27 games over .500 with their fifth victory in seven games.

Reds 3, Astros 1

At Cincinnati, Jay Bruce hit a go-ahead single in his return from the disabled list and Brandon Phillips homered to help Cincinnati beat Houston.

Playing his first game in more than two months, Bruce bounced a two-run single through the right side to give Cincinnati a 2-1 lead in the seventh inning. The bases-loaded grounder barely eluded first baseman Lance Berkman and second baseman Kaz Matsui, making a winner of Bronson Arroyo.

Cardinals 11, Marlins 6

At St. Louis, Matt Holliday drove in three runs to top 100 RBIs for the third time in his career as the St. Louis bullpen rescued struggling Todd Wellemeyer in a victory over Florida.

The Cardinals bounced back from a three-game sweep by Atlanta and reduced their magic number for clinching the NL Central to 10.

Holliday and Ryan Ludwick had two-run singles off Ricky Nolasco (11-9) in a four-run first. Holliday added an RBI double in a four-run eighth capped by Colby Rasmus' three-run homer after the bullpen nursed a one-run lead for four innings.

Diamondbacks 4, Padres 2, 10 innings

At San Diego, Brandon Allen singled in the go-ahead run in the 10th inning to lift Arizona to a win over San Diego.

Gerardo Parma reached in the 10th with a one-out infield single off Adam Russell (2-1). Ryan Roberts then singled with pinch-runner Trent Oeltjen taking third. Allen followed with a line drive to right-center to bring home the go-ahead run.

Pinch-hitter Alex Romero then grounded out to bring in another run as Arizona won for just the second time in 11 games.

Serena Williams wishes she could give line judge a hug

NEW YORK (AP)—Her doubles championship brought some closure Monday to what has been an awkward, tumultuous U.S. Open for Serena Williams.

Time to celebrate. Time to move on. Maybe even time to make amends with the line judge she unloaded on during that ugly finish to her semifinal loss two nights ago.

"I would like to give her a big ol' hug," Williams said.

Williams and sister Venus teamed up for a 6-2, 6-2 victory over defending champions Cara Black and Liezel Huber to win their 10th Grand Slam doubles title, and first at Flushing Meadows since 1999. Not surprisingly, the sisters answered very few questions about doubles when it was over.

During a post-match interview on the court, ESPN2's Patrick McEnroe prodded Serena about her profane outburst at the end of her loss to Kim Clijsters and its aftermath. Williams had issued an apology shortly before the doubles match, saying she is "a woman of great pride, faith and integrity, and I admit when I'm wrong."

It was a more contrite statement than the one she released the day before—when she was socked with a $10,000 fine for acting in a "threatening manner," according to tournament director Jim Curley. But when McEnroe tried to ask her "what clicked in your head" that led to the new statement, the crowd started booing.

"I think what the crowd is saying is, `Patrick, let's move on,'" Venus Williams said.

Venus also played the role of protective big sister during the news conference, where questions included what Serena did, how she felt, who she owed apologies to and what she would do next.

"You know, everyone is human," Venus said.

Serena said she didn't agree with the call from Saturday night but bore no ill will toward the line judge, who did not work the tournament either Sunday or Monday.

"I don't think my foot touched the line in that call," Williams said. "Looking back on it, I think the lady did the best that she could. She was just doing her job. I guess at the time, she probably saw it as what it was. You know, she was just doing her best."

The one thing Serena didn't fess to is what, exactly, she said to the line judge who called the foot fault that sparked the rant, which led to her being docked a point on match point.

"I was in the heat of the moment," she said. "You can see it was a lot of action. I don't remember several points in the match today, let alone anything I might have said a couple days ago."

For a refresher, she could simply go to YouTube, where videos of the expletive-laden onslaught were still high on the most-viewed list, with one of the replays generating 1.2 million hits and counting.

Officials from the Grand Slam tournaments are also interested in the replays. They were combing through audio from on-court mics and different TV feeds as part of an investigation to find out exactly what she said, and whether there should be more than the penalty she has already received.

Williams' apology might have been viewed as an attempt to seek some sort of clemency from tennis officials, who could take back the $350,000 check she earned for reaching the semifinals, or suspend her.

But Williams didn't view her latest statement as a more contrite version of what she sent originally—only a chance to put it up on her Web site for wider readership, and a chance to apologize to Clijsters, the U.S. Open champion, who was clearly bewildered by the bizarre ending.

"I definitely think an apology was warranted," Williams said. "You know, I just felt like the other one was an apology, as well. This one I wanted to make sure that I also congratulated Kim on her job that she did, and also to just everyone else."

As for the tennis—it was an easy victory. Serena kept a noticeable sliver of green between her foot and the baseline whenever she served. She didn't get called for a foot fault.

The sisters won three of the year's four majors. They were playing the world's top-ranked team—proof that rankings have more to do with playing lots of events, which the Williamses don't.

"They're bigger and stronger than us," Huber said. "They served bigger than us and you could see it all today."

Serena got plenty of support from the few thousand fans who came to Arthur Ashe Stadium to watch the tournament wrap up on a Monday for the second straight year. Before the first point, one fan yelled, "Serena, you go girl!" Then another said, "We love you Serena!" Her father, Richard, sat in the front row, almost even with the baseline where the infamous call was made. Her mother, Oracene Price, was in the family box, sitting next to Serena's agent.

After match point, Serena hugged her sister and got a warm burst of applause. Williams said she has received an outpouring of support via e-mail, though the true test of how this affects her image figures to play out over weeks and months, not days.

"I think the whole point of learning from your mistakes is not to do the same thing," she said. "I definitely would, I think, have a more professional way of voicing my opinion. I want to get another bad line call, so I can get some more practice and see how I do."

Fall beach volleyball league to start Sept. 24

Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association will serve up the fall edition of its four-person beach competition starting Sept. 24 on the Pacific Islands Club sand court.

While wallops and blocks will start on Sept. 24, NMIVA will hold its traditional draft banquet two days before on Sept. 22 where teams can draft players for their teams.

NMIVA said regular season games are expected to run through Dec. 8 with the playoffs set for Dec. 10.

Games will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays with three games each night—6pm, 7pm, and 8pm. NMIVA has also designated Wednesday for make-up games.

Cost for entry in the fall beach volleyball league is $25 for non-members of NMIVA and $20 for members

Last year, Acme Roofing won the Miller Lite Four-Person Beach Volleyball Fall League after beating Enyophace in the title match on the PIC sand court.

Acme Roofing wrapped up the championship following a come-from-behind 15-21, 21-17, 15-10 win in the finals.

The victory justified Acme Roofing's No. 1 seeding in the playoffs. It gained the top seeding after it topped the regular season with a clean 10-0 record. Enyophace was second in the elims with its 9-1 win-loss card.

Acme Roofing defeated Thai One On in the semifinals to gain the first finals slot. Enyophace, meanwhile, downed Karakuchi in the other semis duel to set the stage for the title showdown between the top two teams in the league. ***(Mark Rabago)***

Acme Roofing's Larry Sheri, left, goes for one of his several kills against Dan Westphal and the rest of Enyophace's blockers during their title game in the 2008 Miller Lite Four-Person Beach Volleyball Fall League last year on the PIC sand court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

DEL POTRO

From Page 28

after forehand past him. In a result as shocking for who lost as how it happened, the sixth-seeded del Potro came back to win his first Grand Slam title by upsetting the No. 1-seeded Federer 3-6, 7-6 (5), 4-6, 7-6 (4), 6-2.

"Maybe I look back and have some regrets about it," said Federer, never before beaten by anyone other than Rafael Nadal in a major final. "But, you know, you can't have them all and can't always play your best."

He had won 40 consecutive matches at Flushing Meadows. He had won 33 of his previous 34 Grand Slam matches. And he has made the final at 17 of the past 18 Grand Slam tournaments, 21 overall.

Del Potro? This was the 20-year-old's first Grand Slam final, and he was 0-6 against Federer until now. But after handing Nadal the most lopsided loss of his Grand Slam career in the semifinals Sunday, del Potro came back the next day and rattled Federer.

"I would like to congratulate Juan Martin on an unbelievable tournament. I had a great one myself, too," Federer said, "but he was the best."

That's some compliment.

Somehow, del Potro never seemed intimidated by the setting or the man many consider the greatest tennis player in history.

The usually unflappable Federer argued with chair umpire Jake Garner during a changeover, using a profanity and saying, "Don't tell me to be quiet, OK? When I want to talk, I talk."

He also got steamed while up a set and serving at 5-4 in the second. Del Potro tried a forehand passing shot that was called wide, but he challenged, and the replay system showed he was right. Federer kept glancing at the mark the shot left on the blue court, even into the next game, and del Potro wound up stealing the set.

"That one cost me the match, eventually," Federer said.

Del Potro, meanwhile, managed to have the time of his young life, high-fiving front-row fans after winning one point, and reveling in the soccer-style serenades of "Ole!" ringing through the stadium.

"When I would have a dream, it was to win the U.S. Open, and the other one is to be like Roger. One is done," del Potro said during the on-court ceremony.

Then, addressing Federer directly, del Potro added: "I need to improve a lot to be like you. I'd like to congratulate you for fighting 'til the last point."

The 4-hour, 6-minute match was the first U.S. Open final to go five sets since 1999, and there were no early signs to indicate it would be this competitive—much less end with del Potro down on his back, chest heaving, tears welling, a Grand Slam trophy soon to be in his arms. He is the fifth-youngest U.S. Open champion and the first man from Argentina to win the event since Guillermo Vilas in 1977.

Vilas was in the stands Monday, sitting one row behind Jack Nicklaus.

One simple indication of the difference in age and status of the two finalists: The 28-year-old Federer's guest box was full, with pals such as rock-star couple Gwen Stefani and Gavin Rossdale and Vogue editor Anna Wintour seated alongside Federer's parents, wife and agent. Only three of the 15 available seats were occupied in del Potro's box.

Federer took a 3-0 lead in 15 minutes, winning one point by racing about 5 feet wide of the doubles alley for a defensive backhand, then sprinting the other way for a cross-court forehand passing winner that he celebrated by yelling and shaking his fists.

He even took time to watch a replay on a stadium video screen. Not quite the "Did he really just do that?!" sort of trick shot Federer pulled off against Novak Djokovic in the semifinals—a back-to-the-net, between-the-legs, cross-court passing winner to get to match point—but pretty spectacular, nonetheless.

But del Potro eventually got going, swinging more freely and taking full advantage of Federer's serving woes: 11 double-faults and a first-serve percentage of only 50.

Used to traveling without a full-time coach, Federer generally is quite adept at making mid-match adjustments and dealing with opponents' switches in strategy. But it was del Potro who realized he needed to put full belief in the strength of his 100 mph forehands and not worry about too much else.

That tactic worked, and Federer never found a way to counter it, losing leads in the second set and the fourth set. He was up 5-4 in the fourth, and at 15-30 on del Potro's serve, Federer needed only two more points to become the first man since Bill Tilden in 1920-25 to win the American Grand Slam tournament six years in a row.

Del Potro held steady there, and Federer would never come that close again.

While hardly a household name, del Potro was not an unknown in the tennis world. He burst onto the scene a year ago with a 23-match winning streak and four tournament titles in a row on hard courts, the surface used at Flushing Meadows. There also was a bit of a harbinger for this back when del Potro presented problems for Federer in the French Open semifinals in June, taking a 2-1 lead in sets before frittering that away.

Federer went on to win the title at Roland Garros, his first there, to complete a career Grand Slam and tie Pete Sampras' career record of 14 major championships. Federer then broke that mark by collecting No. 15 at Wimbledon.

Thanks to del Potro, Federer will have to wait for No. 16.

From mid-May until Monday, Federer had been 32-1 with four titles from five tournaments. Aside from the on-court success, Federer's 2009 included getting married and becoming a father—of twins, no less.

Quite a year. Still, one can't help but ponder this: No man has won even three straight major tournaments in a season—much less all four—since Rod Laver's true Grand Slam in 1969. Federer came close this year, his French Open and Wimbledon titles bookended by a five-set loss to Nadal in the Australian Open final and a five-set loss to del Potro in the U.S. Open final.

This U.S. Open was Federer's first Grand Slam event since his daughters were born, and he spoke proudly of quickly learning to change diapers and getting used to sleeping less.

"Right now, I'm just tired," he said after his loss. "I want to get a rest."

KFAS

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6th minute mark of the contest.

Matansa FC's Semisi Betevan tied the count at 1-1 in the 28th minute of the first half then Kamrul put Matansa in front, 2-1, in the 6th minute of the second half.

It took 16 minutes for KFAS to equalize the game when Rhee Jae Wan found the back of the net in the 22nd minute. Hwang then completed the come-from-behind victory three minutes later when his kick sailed past the Matanasa FC defenders.

The win allowed KFAS to stay in fourth place with 18 points behind Inter Godfather's (23), MP United (19), and Independents FC (19).

Inter Godfather's, who were on a bye, remained on top with its 7-2-3 win-draw-loss record

MP United 7, Remignton 2

Joe Miller scored six goals—three in both halves—as MP United outscored Remington, 7-2, in the other game Sunday to improve its record to 6-1-5.

MP United's other goal came from Nick Swaim in the 32nd minute of the first half.

Matt Halley and Thoengaket Jeeraphong scored one each for Remington, which fell to a 4-2-6 win-loss-draw card and in sixth place. It has 14 points.

Independents FC 5, K Junior 2

Independents FC also triumphed easily against Korea Junior, 5-2, to help the team climb to third place with 19 points.

Jason Schroedet made the first three goals for Independents, including one in the first half and two in the second.

Jari Voulilainen added two more in the second half as the team improved their record to 6-1-5.

Korea Junior fell to a 5-6 slate and in fifth place with 16 points. Remington has 4-2-6 record and in sixth with 14 points, while Matansa, at 4-1-7, is in seventh with 13 points.

LEAGUES

From Page 28

Commonwealth Ports Authority Accounting was supposed to play Hyatt Regency Saipan in last night's lone game in the government/business caging.

The doubleheader tonight would have featured Department of Community and Cultural Affairs taking on CPA-ARFF in the first game and Micronesian Brokers, Inc. tangling with Commonwealth Health Center in the second game.

Saturday's twinbill had Bank of Guam squaring off against Customs and Public School System taking a shot at CPA-Accounting.

Cancelled games Tuesday night were the DCCA-IT&E and NTT Docomo-Customs match-ups.

Games expected to be affected in the 18-and-under Rotary caging, meanwhile, are tonight's Rollers II-G-Stars game, the Sixers and Sparks in the first game and Rollers I and Ol'Aces in the second game tomorrow night, and the Sonics-Rebels match Thursday night.

The game between league-leading Sonics and the struggling Young 670 Rollers 3 was also scrapped Tuesday night.

For more information, about the IT&E and Rotary basketball leagues, check the www.fiba-oceania.com for updates on the resumption of games or contact Venus at 483-4906.

SAURES

From Page 28

Ace winners can only participate in the 2009 RGA Club Championships if they compete in at least six RGA-sanctioned tournaments or qualifying events.

For more information about RGA and the rest of its tournaments for the year, contact Kosam at 483-4506 or Wabol at 288-1129.

In related news, Kosam said the club's annual RGA Memorial Classic is scheduled for Oct. 24.

He said this year's school recipient is Tanapag Elementary School. The 2009 RGA Memorial Classic will adopt a double peoria format with winners declared in the low gross, skills challenge, closest to the pins, and longest drives. Mulligans will also be up for sale. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	93	52	.641	—
Boston	84	58	.592	7 1/2
Tampa Bay	73	71	.507	19 1/2
Toronto	65	79	.451	27 1/2
Baltimore	58	85	.406	34

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	77	66	.538	—
Minnesota	72	72	.500	5 1/2
Chicago	71	73	.493	6 1/2
Cleveland	61	82	.427	16
Kansas City	57	86	.399	20

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	86	57	.601	—
Texas	80	63	.559	6
Seattle	74	70	.514	12 1/2
Oakland	65	78	.455	21

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	82	60	.577	—
Florida	76	68	.528	7
Atlanta	75	68	.524	7 1/2
New York	63	81	.438	20
Washington	50	93	.350	32 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
St. Louis	85	60	.586	—
Chicago	74	68	.521	9 1/2
Houston	70	74	.486	14 1/2
Milwaukee	69	74	.483	15
Cincinnati	65	79	.451	19 1/2
Pittsburgh	55	87	.387	28 1/2

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	86	59	.593	—
Colorado	82	63	.566	4
San Francisco	78	66	.542	7 1/2
San Diego	65	80	.448	21
Arizona	63	82	.434	23

Yesterday's Games

Cincinnati 3, Houston 1
Chicago Cubs 2, Milwaukee 0
St. Louis 11, Florida 6
Arizona 4, San Diego 2, 10 innings
L.A. Dodgers 6, Pittsburgh 2
San Francisco 9, Colorado 1
N.Y. Yankees 5, L.A. Angels 3
Tampa Bay 8, Baltimore 4
Detroit 6, Toronto 5, 10 innings
Oakland 9, Texas 0
Minnesota 6, Cleveland 3

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	1	0	0	1.000	25	24
N.Y. Jets	1	0	0	1.000	24	7
Buffalo	0	1	0	.000	24	25
Miami	0	1	0	.000	7	19

South

Indianapolis	1	0	0	1.000	14	12
Houston	0	1	0	.000	7	24
Jacksonville	0	1	0	.000	12	14
Tennessee	0	1	0	.000	10	13

North

Baltimore	1	0	0	1.000	38	24
Pittsburgh	1	0	0	1.000	13	10
Cincinnati	0	1	0	.000	7	12
Cleveland	0	1	0	.000	20	34

West

San Diego	1	0	0	1.000	24	20
Denver	1	0	0	1.000	12	7
Kansas City	0	1	0	.000	24	38
Oakland	0	1	0	.000	20	24

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

N.Y. Giants	1	0	0	1.000	23	17
Dallas	1	0	0	1.000	34	21
Philadelphia	1	0	0	1.000	38	10
Washington	0	1	0	.000	17	23

South

New Orleans	1	0	0	1.000	45	27
Atlanta	1	0	0	1.000	19	7
Carolina	0	1	0	.000	10	38
Tampa Bay	0	1	0	.000	21	34

North

Green Bay	1	0	0	1.000	21	15
Minnesota	1	0	0	1.000	34	20
Chicago	0	1	0	.000	15	21
Detroit	0	1	0	.000	27	45

West

San Francisco	1	0	0	1.000	20	16
Seattle	1	0	0	1.000	28	0
Arizona	0	1	0	.000	16	20
St. Louis	0	1	0	.000	0	28

Yesterday's Games

New England 25, Buffalo 24
San Diego 24, Oakland 20

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Juan Pan-Camacho Fundraising Golf Tournament

Photos by NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Ben Lizama tees off for the No. 11 hole in last Saturday's Juan Pan-Camacho Fundrasing Golf Tournament held at the Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort west course

Running mates Juan "Pan" T. Guerrero, left, and Joseph N. Camacho thank all the participants who turned out for last Saturday's fundraising event.

Mike Camacho, extreme right, takes a break with flight mates in hole No. 6.

Triple J's Jay Santos putts for par in the 17th hole.

Mario Taitano settled for par in hole No. 2 of the tournament.

Norman Tenorio places the ball for a birdie putt in hole No. 2.

Left, Tim Goodwin tries for a birdie just from outside the green in hole No. 17.

Former CNMI national player Nick Sablan tees off in hole No. 11. He closed out with a 69 to finish runner-up behind champion Tony Rogolifoi's 66.8.

Peter Tenorio raises his driver in hole No. 5. He placed second.

CNMI national player Ralph Yumul attempts a birdie from 12 feet as his tournament co-chair Carl Hocog looks on.

Bryan Reyes prepares his driver in the tournament's 11th hole.

Fall beach volleyball league to start Sept. 24

Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association will serve up the fall edition of its four-person beach competition starting Sept. 24 on the Pacific Islands Club sand court. **26**

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Brady rallies Patriots past Bills, 25-24

A year after being sidelined with torn knee ligaments, Brady resembled a rusty game manager more than the invincible record-setting quarterback who guided the Patriots to a perfect 2007 regular season. **24**

Del Potro stuns Federer in final

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AP TENNIS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Always so cool, so consistent, so in control of his emotions and his matches, Roger Federer amazingly let the U.S. Open championship slip from his grasp.

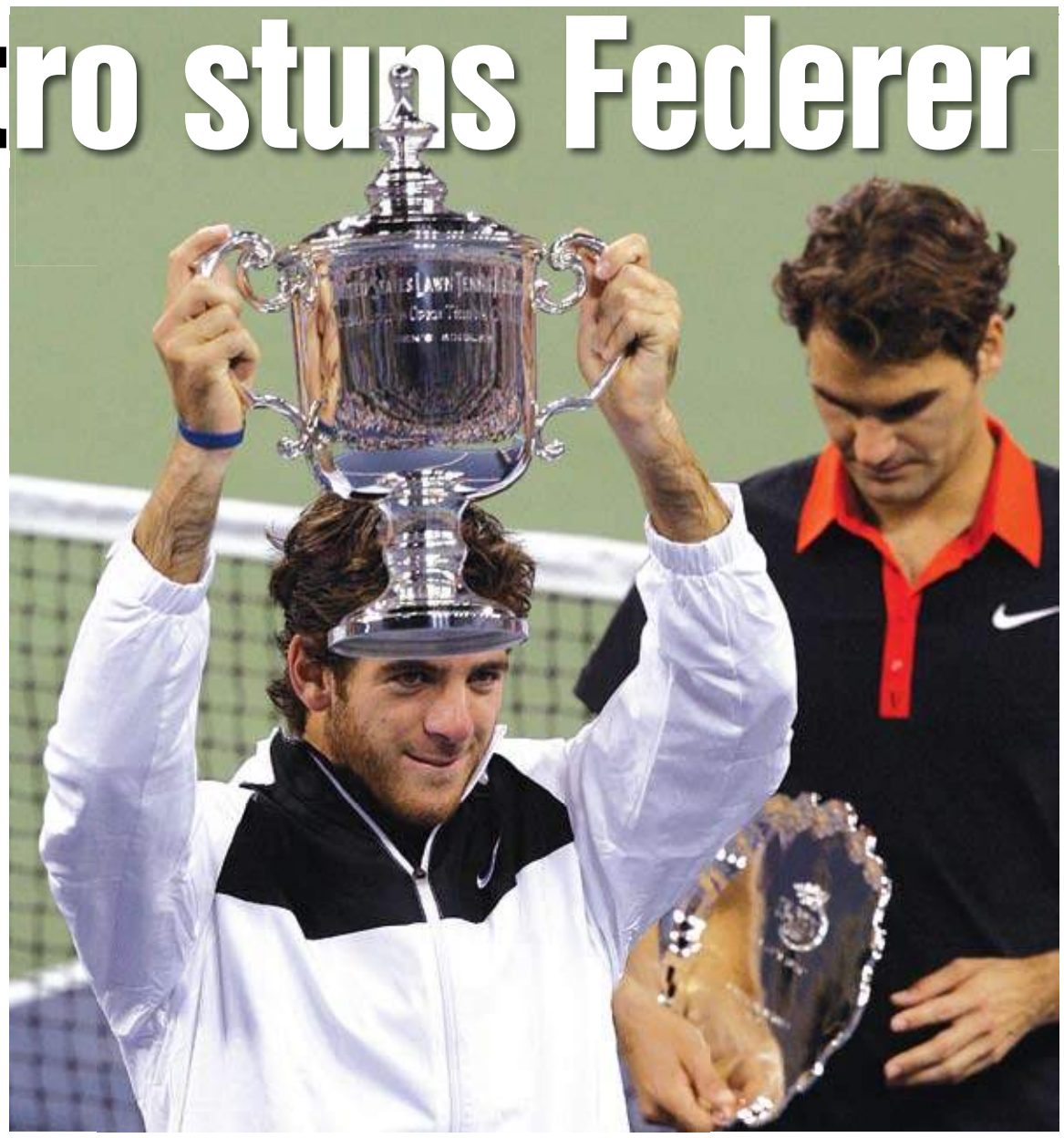
Two points from victory against inexperienced, unheralded Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina, two points from a sixth consecutive title at Flushing Meadows and a record-extending 16th Grand Slam title overall, Federer, quite simply, fell apart Monday.

RELATED NEWS

Serena Williams wishes she could give line judge a hug **Page 25**

He railed at the chair umpire. His legs grew weary. His double-faults mounted. He could not figure out a way to stop the 6-foot-6 del Potro from pounding forehand

See DEL POTRO on Page 26



Juan Martin del Potro, of Argentina, holds up the championship trophy after winning the men's finals championship over Roger Federer, right, of Switzerland, at the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Monday, Sept. 14, 2009.

AP

Saures' net 66 tops RGA qualifier

Joe Saures took one step closer to capturing the September Ace of the Month and a crack at the 2009 RGA Club Championships after topping last Sunday's Refaluwasch Golf Association qualifier.

Saures fired a net 66 in a bright and sunny day at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort, a day before tropical storm Choi-wan rendered the Agingan Point venue unplayable.

He is in a prime position to win the September tourney if no player beats his score during the RGA monthly Ace set for Sept. 27. Saures hopes to join early monthly winners Tars Olopai, Jesse Seman, and tournament director Jess Wabol for the yearend competition.

Last Sunday, Olopai and Seman tied with a net 69, while Wabol finished with a post-handicap score of 70. RGA president Jordon Kosam, meanwhile, completed the Top 5 with his net 71.

Monthly winners must have the required number of tournaments to be eligible to the RGA Club Championship.

See SAURES on Page 26

KFAS escape with 3-2 win over Matansa FC

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Korean Football Association of Saipan pulled off a 3-2 victory over Matansa FC last Sunday in the NMIFA Men's Football League at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Hwang Yang Ha connected in the 25th minute of the second half to play the hero's role for the team as they nailed their sixth win in 12 matches with no draw.

Cho Jin Kao scored the first goal of the day to give KFAS a 1-0 lead in the

See KFAS on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Korean Football Association of Saipan player, left, tries to retain possession of the football even as a player from an opposing team chases it down in file photo in the 2009 NMIFA Men's Football League.

Leagues at Ada Gym on hold

As site is converted to evacuation center

MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

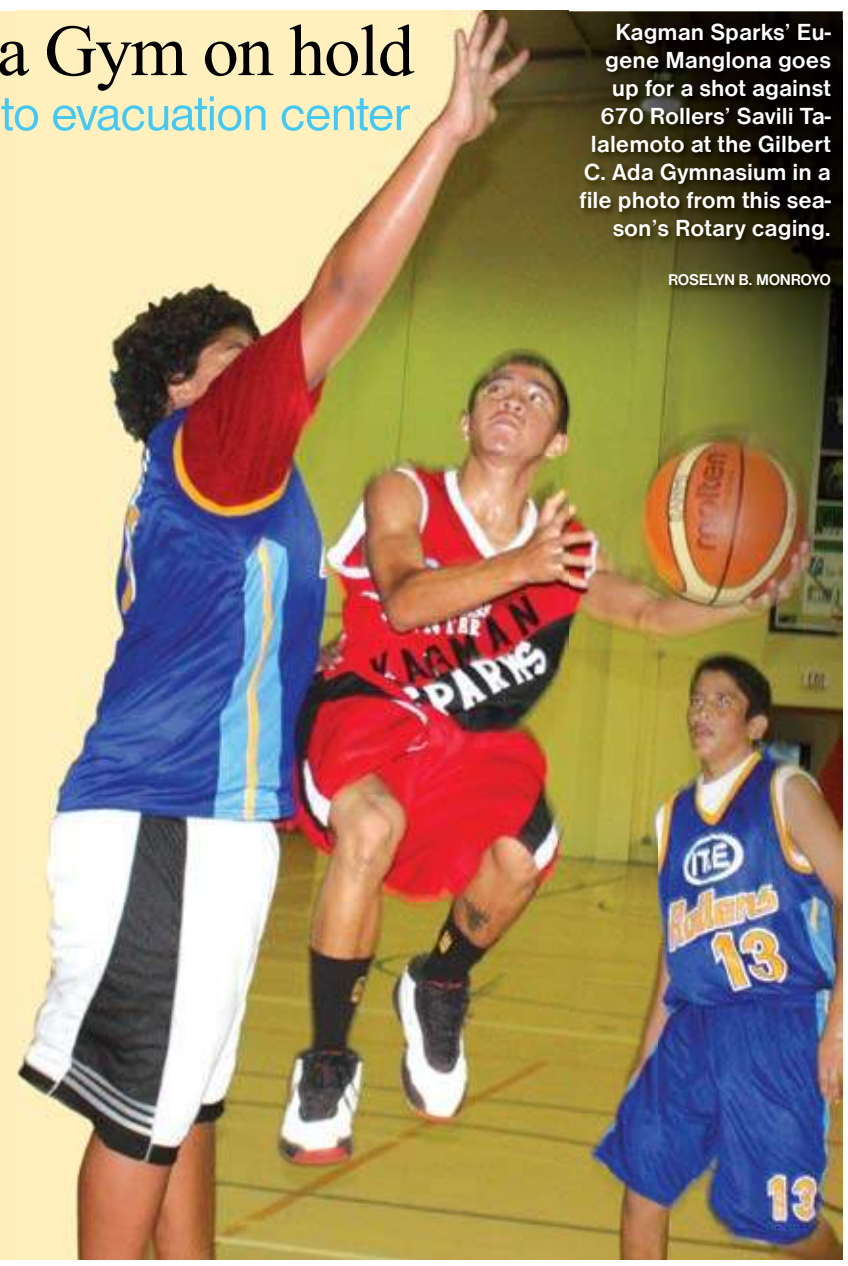
Basketball leagues using the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium are cancelled for the meantime as the site will serve as an evacuation center for families displaced by typhoon Choi-Wan.

Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands spokesperson Abner Venus said games in the Rotary Club of Saipan Youth Basketball League and the IT&E Inter-Government/Business Basketball League will continue to be on hold.

"Please be advised that games for the Saipan Rotary Youth and Inter-Government/Business Basketball League will be cancelled until further notice. According to BANMI president Elias Rangamar, the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium will be used as typhoon shelter for those people who are in need of shelter," he said in an e-mail.

Games in the two BANMI-sanctioned leagues have been cancelled since Tuesday, as the threat of Choi-Wan forced Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to close government offices and the Public School System to suspend classes. Some businesses also allowed their employees to go home early, save for essential personnel.

See LEAGUES on Page 26



Kagman Sparks' Eugene Manglona goes up for a shot against 670 Rollers' Savili Talalemoto at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium in a file photo from this season's Rotary caging.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO